

A23

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AGON MARINE

Something special



Agon Marine's A23 is different in almost every way when compared to a conventional water craft. Sure, it's got the general shape of a boat, but any further than that, and you can take what you know about boats, and throw it out the window! I've had about six 'most anticipated craft' this year, but this time with Agon Marine's A23, I really mean it! Leisure Boating gets SA's first test on the hottest craft this summer.

leisure **boating**

SA's leading power boat magazine



An email was leaked to the press a little while ago, from an unnamed source, concerning an unnamed boat. Attached, it revealed a matt black hull, tinted windows, a revolutionary 'floating' wake tower, expensive leather, dark and plush-looking seats, and a helm that even a NASA space pilot could appreciate!

Leisure Boating were the first press guys to track down the owners, demanding a poster-size picture to hang on our wall like a zealous eight-year-old with Lamborghini pin-ups!

Conditions for test

Although most days on Miverstand Dam in the Western Cape are windless and perfect, our review day put a sizeable chop on the water, and at best we were going through a three foot

chop. I was worried that this wouldn't give an accurate reflection of the true personality of the A23. Nonetheless, we gave it a go to see what the craft was made of.

General impression

If you're going for the superhero Batman-boat look, black is going to be your choice, but white would be my recommended colour.

With its 2.5 metre wide beam, she looks a lot wider than she is, and the Mustang-like speed stripe down the back complements the aesthetic shape perfectly.

Although the craft is unlike anything you've ever seen before, the bow is definitely beyond what you'd expect from a craft of this nature.

Looking at the angle of the chines, shape of the boat, angle of attack of the

bow, and more, I felt this would be a stable, dry and smooth ride, capable of handling anything I could throw at it.

Deck layout

The A23 is certified for 10 passengers on a dam or river or seven when on the ocean. Starting at the bow, you can easily and comfortably seat three yet still be able to have a forward view. There's ample cushioning on all of the seats as well as backrest should you be on bumpier water than you expected. An anchor locker is available on the bow.

Moving sternwards through the windscreen, you get to the helm and passenger stations, and it's truly a place you have to experience to appreciate. The chairs are formed like those from a high-end racing car, and feel as though you're being hugged snugly as you get in. 



The A23 Agon boasts a plush interior with high-end racing car seats, a tinted windscreen and plenty of space for passengers.



The craft's generous sun lounger not only converts into a four-seat stern bench but can also be raised to allow access to the engine.

The upmarket-feel carries through to the cockpit as the entire binnacle is covered in a specially made material, designed to reduce the amount of reflection on the windscreen!

For the skipper, easy-to-see instruments include speedometer, tachometer, volt meter, water and air temperatures, fuel gauge and more, set inside a moulded dash. A full touch screen DVD, MP3 CD/radio, with remote control is located just in front of the co-pilot. Both skippers and co-pilots chairs are slide adjustable and can rotate 360 degrees, while the backrest is tilt adjustable making for one of the comfiest helms I've ever had the pleasure of sitting in.

Where the ski-hatch is usually located, you'll find easy access to the 200-litre built-in fuel tank.

There's a generous sun lounger at the stern, which easily converts into a stern four seat bench with backrest. The lounger can also be raised to allow ample access to the engine for every need.

A fresh water tap at the stern is supplied by a 50-litre tank, and allows you to rinse yourself and your gear off once you've returned from the water.

Silver accentuates, logo stitching, the fabric on the sides, just everything complements each other fantastically and truly makes the craft a luxurious place to be.

Storage space is available under all of the seating, and there's even enough to store all your items, towels, PFD's and more.

Motors and controls

Our review craft was fitted with a Mercruiser 5.0 litre MPI inboard. According to the manufacturers, this V8 monster delivers 260 HP and 194 kW at 4 600 - 5 000 rpm. A gentle rumble resonates out the exhaust while idling, and when under way, the roar gives you goose bumps down the back of your neck.

With a revolution 19-inch four-blade prop, and four people up, we were able to clock a top speed of 80 km/h at

4 200 rpm (gauge speed), and this with the engine still being run in. A slightly smaller prop size would ensure the engine gets up to top revs, and will give you an extra couple km/h on the top end. A steady cruising speed on the A23 as reviewed, is around 44km/h at 3 100 rpm.

Handling

While idling away from the jetty, two passengers (totalling 200 kg) tried to rock the boat side-to-side and the craft stayed absolutely level and stable. This meant only good things for speed runs.

Running into- and with the wind, and with a three-foot chop, the craft, at every speed, proved simply superb. She leant neatly into a corner, and carried as much speed out of a corner as she took going in. Steering is finger-light and trying to feel out of control on the craft is simply impossible.

My hopes of the A23 being a stable, dry, comfortable and safe ride were confirmed over and over again



The A23 Agon's inboard V8 beast produces a staggering 260HP, and a roar that'll send plenty of goosebumps down your neck.

throughout the day. And, just based on handling, I'd be happy to own an A23 as my very own craft.

The tinted windows not only look good, but they are great for taking the shimmer off the water, allowing you to safely navigate waterways and

see what's ahead when skippering towards the sun. Although not crucial, the A23 does sit slightly bow up when cruising.

This is easily fixed, and the manufacturers are currently making the ride even better. 



Despite rough conditions, the A23 Agon's handling proved superb, carrying good speed in and out of corners while featuring good control.



With polished arches on the windscreen, and many other interesting creature comforts, the A23 Agon will make you feel like a kid again.

Finishing touches

There's attention to detail everywhere you look. Almost hidden away in the corners of the craft, you'll find a gunnel system. Any water that falls on deck, moves outward to this system and is carried towards the stern and out the craft. Not only does this increase the longevity of the carpeting, but it keeps the floor dry so that you always have a warm feeling underfoot, instead of just feeling like you are walking in a pair of wet slippers!

I am completely bowled over with the craft's looks. Especially the polished

silver arches over the windscreen. I feel as though I'm at the controls of a Transformer, and that's exactly what boats like this are supposed to do – make you feel like a kid. You should be going:

"Wow! Look at that!" at every piece in this craft, and screaming with excitement inside every time you get behind the wheel. This is what I felt when at the helm of the A23.

Incidentally, it's worth mentioning that you keep your eyes on this particular craft, because soon to come is the 'free floating' party-piece wake

tower and possibly a water ballast system for an incredibly big wake, and a windscreen insert which slots between the wrap-around screen to reduce wind in the cabin.

Conclusion

Okay, so maybe you've got different tastes to me and don't care that much for the carpeting, the interior, its silver window arches, or things of that nature. That's fine, as Agon Marine can custom make a craft to suit your tastes.

I'm really bowled over by the A23. I absolutely love it! It drives as good as it looks, and it gives you everything you could ever want from a luxury styled family boat. The best part is that it's a boat you can use every day, without high maintenance bills or even worse, getting bored with it.

Agon Marine will only be making 100 A23s. No really! So, if you want to be the elitist boater on your waterway, call Agon Marine on 082 268 4329 or visit www.agonmarine.co.za.

At a glance



L.O.A.	23 ft / 7.01 m
Beam	2.5 m
Draft	0.42 m
Length on trailer	9 m
Max load	883 kg
Min/Max HP	220 HP – 320 HP
Buoyancy	Closed cell foam
Weight	+ 1500 kg

