

# DEVIATING FROM THE STANDARD



*Since its launch at the Miami International Boat Show in February 2019, and then its Australian release at SIBS 2019, the Ocean Alexander 45 Divergence has certainly attracted a lot of attention.*

*Text by Daniel Harding / Barry Thompson*

BOAT REVIEW  
**OCEAN ALEXANDER  
 DIVERGENCE 45**



The hull tracked well and had a smooth ride in both head and following seas

The real magic lies in the fold-out bulwarks which expand the usable recreation space to an epic 5.82m beam.

**M**Y TOES CURL OVER THE SIDE OF THE FOLD-DOWN GUNWALE. I spring into the air before straightening my body. I gracefully glide into the water, the perfect swan dive. 10-point-freakin-0. I surface, fix my already perfect slicked back hair and see the Ocean Alexander 45 Divergence in a whole new light. Her freeboard is immediately taller and her sheer is more yacht-like. Okay, fine. So that's not exactly how it happened. But what I said about admiring the shape of the Divergence, that part is true. The truth is I fumbled and plopped into the water with the grace of a bowling ball. My fins were too tight, my mask was too loose and immediately fogged up. Should have spit in it, I thought to myself. Too late. I wish I could tell you I gained my composure and swam circles around the boat shooting photos with the practiced accuracy of Marc Montocchio—the famous underwater photographer who inspired my antics. That, alas, would also be a lie (of the few nice shots that accompany this story, there are fourfold unusable ones). Only after washing the salt from my face and reviewing the pictures on my laptop could I appreciate how the blue accents on the quad, 400-hp Mercury outboards, the fabric on the reversible cockpit seating and the paneling under the hardtop work in concert to create a symphony in blue that plays perfectly against the sky and waves. It's from this angle that you can see what the 45 is not. It's not a centre console; at least, not what we've traditionally called a centre console.

**APTLY NAMED**

Di-ver-gence: A deviation from a course or standard. By that Merriam-Webster definition, this might be the most appropriately named model of all time. Before the 45 came along, OA's next smallest yacht was the Merritt Island, Florida-built 70e and beyond

that, the company is known for its prominence in the superyacht market with Taiwanese-built boats up to 47m. Designed to serve as a second boat for their larger yacht clientele, the 45 shares DNA with her larger siblings but sports a rebellious personality all her own.

This wasn't the first time I admired the 45 while sopping wet. My colleagues and I were in Miami ahead of the boat shows this past February and knew that the Divergence was going to be a star attraction. We were itching to beat the competition—and boat nuts everywhere—to get a sneak peek of this exciting model. I won't fully divulge how far we were willing to go to get into the show before it officially opened, but let's just say it's not the first time I was packing fins and a mask in my backpack. While casing the show for a way in, the kind folks setting up invited us through the front gate. How civilized. Humming the Mission Impossible theme music wasn't necessary—this time anyway—but we did have one more obstacle in our way: A torrential downpour began just as we got to the Ocean Alexander display. We checked the radar; the rain was expected to last all day. I looked to Digital Director John Turner and Managing Editor Simon Murray and saw what I was hoping for: a we've-come-this-far, we're-not-going-back look in their eyes. It became clear at this point that Murray—against my reminders, I might add—had forgotten to bring a raincoat. I'll give him an F for planning but an A for creativity and spirit; he whittled a poncho out of a couch cover in under a minute. (C- for style.)

**SUPER CONSOLE**

According to its designers, the Divergence 45 is an ideal stand-alone sport boat or second vessel for large yacht owners who are seeking a dynamic, sport boat they can jump onboard and go, whether that's for a day on the Harbour or a fast transfer vessel to your favourite restaurant. At an overall length of 14.5m with a 4.19m beam, the Ocean Alexander 45 Divergence features

unprecedented levels of luxury for a boat its size – that's even before the bulwarks are lowered to further maximise your entertaining space. Make no mistake, the 45 Divergence is jam-packed with exciting features!

Drawing on the design hallmarks and pedigree of Ocean Alexander's superyachts, the 45 Divergence places equal focus on comfort as much as horsepower. Quad 350hp Mercury Verado outboard power was selected and she sprints to the desired destination very quickly indeed!

The foredeck features twin sunbeds, plus bow seating and a high-low table that when lowered, offers yet more space to take in some rays. Aft in the cockpit, there is comfortable dual lounge seating and a dining table which conveniently lowers into the floor when it's not required – how cool is that! To further boost the entertaining credentials, the cockpit boasts a barbeque, sink fridge and icemaker combination. A retractable SureShade provides the necessary sun protection over this space when required, while at the helm, there are three helm seats overlooking an ergonomic glass bridge-inspired helm station with weather protection assured by way of a substantial hardtop.

The real magic lies in the patented fold-out bulwarks which expand the usable recreation space to an epic 5.82m (19'1") beam to enhance the alfresco dining experience – all so close to the water. Hidden swim ladders also make the 45 Divergence the ideal day boat for all water sports.

Below decks, the quality of finishes are intentionally superyacht standard. The cabin comprises a dining table with banquette seating that converts to a double berth. The toilet and separate shower stall feature windows and overhead skylights maximum natural light and a feeling of spaciousness. "There's a real appetite in Australia and New Zealand for a powerful, versatile outboard-powered boat that does double duty as an adventure vessel and luxury day boat combining performance and

style', said Dealer Principal and Director of Alexander Marine Australia, Todd Holzapfel.

"As one of the only superyacht builders in this market segment, Ocean Alexander has created a unique vessel that we expect buyers will find very appealing – from the adventurous family who love entertaining afloat, to large yacht owners who want a versatile, spontaneous boat they can use whenever precious time permits." According to Johnny Chueh, Ocean Alexander President; "We took a careful look at this segment and realised that we were in the perfect position to design a boat in this range. Instead of coming at it from a perspective of a centre-console builder who's expanding their line, however, we looked at this with the fresh eyes of a luxury yacht manufacturer designing for a more compact space."

**BIG SEAS WITH EASE**

While we're on the subject, it's natural to call the space aft of the helm a cockpit, but on this boat that name doesn't quite fit; it really is more of a saloon. With room for a sixteen adults to mingle, sit or swim, the space is exceptionally utilitarian. Adding to that are a pair of hydraulic tables (one in the salon and one in the bow) that lift from the sole up to table height. And the cabin below boasted more than enough space for a couple to spend a weekend aboard.

I'm known to pull rank from time to time and test a boat I'm most excited about. I wondered if that bad-editor karma was coming back to bite me as I drove into building seas off Key Largo with spray dousing the windshield. "This wasn't the forecast I saw," I mention to company captain Chris David. "No, those guys making predictions are warm behind their desk. I often wish I could drag them out with me and say 'you call this two to threes!'"

Two to threes are what we had outside of the channel. These seas were upwards of 2m with more than the occasional 2.5m swell thrown in to keep us on our toes. Conditions like these are always a blessing in disguise. Steep swells showed, again and again, that this boat

The foredeck features twin sunbeds, plus bow seating and a high-low table.

Below decks, the quality of finishes are intentionally superyacht standard.

Triple helm chairs have storage lockers beneath.

A trio of Garmin GPSMap 8500 fill the expansive fascia.

There's a complete galley aft of the helm seats.

**BOAT REVIEW**  
**OCEAN ALEXANDER**  
**DIVERGENCE 45**

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**Boat Design Name:** Ocean Alexander 45 Divergence  
**Year Launched:** 2019  
**Builder:** Ocean Alexander  
**Designer:** Ocean Alexander USA  
**LOA:** 14.45 m  
**LOH:** 13.61 m  
**Beam:** 4.19 m (5.82m bulwarks open)  
**Displ:** 15399 kg (loaded)  
**Max Speed:** 43 knots  
**Construction:** GRP  
**Fuel Cap:** 2298 litres  
**Water Cap:** 379 litres  
**Engine Make:** 4 x Mercury 400 Verado  
**Drive Train:** Outboard  
**Thruster:** Sidepower  
**Anchor Winch:** Maxwell  
**MFD:** 3 x Garmin GPSMap 8500  
**Ent System:** Fusion  
**Priced From:** \$POA  
**Contact:** Ocean Alexander Australia,  
 Ph +61 75618 0000  
 sales@alexandermarineaust.com.au  
 www.oceanalexanderaust.com.au

**FUEL & PERFORMANCE DATA**

Fuel capacity: 2298 litres

RPM	Knots	L/h	L/NM	Range(NM)
600	2.3	9	4.000	510
1000	4.8	16.5	3.500	590
2000	8.1	45	5.600	360
3000	9.5	120	13.000	150
4000	18.5	201	11.000	180
5000	32.5	307	9.500	210
5700	40.6	485	12.000	170

Range is calculated on 90% of the fuel capacity.



is not a centre console—at least, not what we've traditionally called a centre console.

Myself, Capt. Chris, mate Janie Adams and service manager Geney Menendez stayed dry and for the most part, comfortable.

The hull tracked well and had a smooth ride in both head and following seas thanks to 18 deg of deadrise, and the 1,600 ponies behind us offered the peace of mind that comes with the ability to power your way out of a bad situation.

Our plan was originally to cruise and snorkel on the Carysfort Reef, but deteriorating conditions would have made that a tall order, even for Michael Phelps. It was a unanimous decision: I was not getting into—or at least definitely not out of—the water. We changed course to the protected bay on the west side of Key Largo. Two-way-averaged speed runs offered up a top speed of 41 knots with a fuel burn of 461 lph. Optimum cruise has become such a preference these days, but an enjoyable speed of 32 knots and fuel burn of 306 lph felt like it would be sustainable for many enjoyable hours.

The test boat was powered by quad Verado 400hp outboards, while stock hull #07 available from Alexander Marine Australia is powered by quad Verado 350hp outboards. Top speed with the quad 350hp's was 43 knots. Cruise speed with the 350hp's was 33 knots using 275 lph.

While we were battling a mean head sea that morning, the real war was being waged under the waves. Just a few miles from the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo is Carysfort Reef, a 1.5-mile preserve of underwater beauty. Since the 1970s, the Carysfort Reef has seen a staggering 93 percent loss of life. It's a trajectory that had scientists and the executive team at the private Ocean Reef Club reeling. However, a lot of work is being done to restore the reef to its former status and that's a great programme that will benefit not only the sealife but also local boaties.

**ALABAMA JACKS**

We then cut the 45 Divergence back toward shore and enjoy the pleasant push from a following sea. At a wide range of speeds the boat felt surefooted. I have to admit, it was more of a sea boat than I would have expected when judging its dockside amenities.

Our early start and time in the ocean built a growing hunger among our crew. The idea of stopping for lunch is suggested and conversation on where to go is short. There is only one spot our crew wants to stop: Alabama Jacks.

Located on the south side of the Barnes Sounds, it's the last stop for a hot meal before crossing over into the Keys. We idle up to the unassuming, single-level restaurant lined with motorcycles. One by one, guests look up from their wax-paper-lined baskets of fish and chips and mahi sandwiches and gawk at the deep blue 45 heading for the face dock beside the restaurant.

"Hey, I'll trade you for my Whaler!" one patron shouts.

"What kind of boat is that?" shouts another.

"It's an Ocean Alexander," replies service manager Menendez.

"Damn, that's nice," comes the reply, followed by a long swig of a Budweiser.

We find a seat near the 45 and place our order. The house specialty is Key West-style conch fritters that come in a large, shareable patty rather than the meatball-shaped offering you typically find. It's a crispy, salty-yet-sweet dish that pairs perfectly with a long day on the water.

My time aboard the Ocean Alexander 45 has just about come to an end. There is a long list of potential owners waiting for their turn at a sea trial. Surely there will be countless owners of larger Ocean Alexanders who will look to the Divergence as a second boat. With its impressive fold-down gunwales and social spaces, it connects you to the water—and below—better than many other boats in this size range.

I polish off my meal and head back for the mainland, leaving with a unique souvenir: a profound respect. Respect for a yacht builder that made a seamless transition to the outboard-powered, super-console market.

I'm also filled with immense gratitude for the work being done by CRF to bring a natural resource back to life. After all, what's the point of buying a boat that gives you unfettered access to the water if there's nothing going on below the surface? ☼

*Solar Panels, Batteries, Chargers, Inverters*

*Design  
Supply  
Install*

**Top Quality Solar Power System Installations for Motor Homes, Caravans & Boats**

Professionally installed and certified PV solar panels, deep cycle batteries, solar power control systems, fridges, TV's, Vents and more.



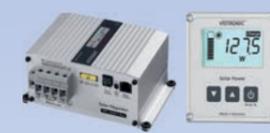
**LITHIUM ION Phosphate Batteries**  
 Sinopoly13.2 V. 10yr Cond. warranty

40 Ahr	\$510
100 Ahr	\$1242
200 Ahr	\$2467
300 Ahr	\$3693
400 Ahr	\$4888



**DEEP CYCLE SEALED AGM Batteries**  
 5yr Cond. Warranty

6V 260 Ahr	\$323
6V 286 Ahr	\$369
6V 390 Ahr	\$598
12V 104 Ahr	\$290
12V 130 Ahr	\$347
12V 156 Ahr	\$395
12V 195 Ahr	\$489
12V 260 Ahr	\$634
12V 325 Ahr	\$815



**VOTRONICS MPPT 12V Dual Controllers & Monitors**  
 Solar Li/Pb

12A/1A 165W	\$169
18A/1A 250W	\$220
24A/1A 350W	\$299
32A/1A 420W	\$349

Battery Monitors - 12V/24V with shunt

100 Amp	\$269
200 Amp	\$299
400 Amp	\$329

48V versions also available



**SOLAR PANELS 12/24 Volt**  
 Standard Glass 'A' Grade

70 Watt	\$119
100 Watt	\$149
140 Watt	\$229
150 Watt	\$233
170 Watt	\$259
200 Watt	\$269
280 Watt	\$279
330 Watt	\$338
365 Watt	\$350

Other sizes available

**RV Caravan and Boat INSTALLATION SPECIALISTS**



**Tracer-AN Series SOLAR CONTROLLERS**  
 Dual Tracer 12V MPPT Controllers

10A	\$105
20A	\$169
30A	\$209
40A	\$259
Tracer remote Meter	\$59



**Battery Chargers 12/24 Volt**  
 TBB 6 Stage

12V 12 Amp	\$249
12V 25 Amp	\$429
12V 40 Amp	\$569
24V 12 Amp	\$429
24V 20 Amp	\$569



**Studer Inverters AJ & XTM Series**  
 5 Yr Warranty Inverter Chargers

12V 275 W	\$453	12V 1500 W	\$3333
24V 350 W	\$490	24V 2400 W	\$3489
12V 500 W	\$689	12V 2000 W	\$3169
24V 600 W	\$689	24V 3500 W	\$3747
12V 1000 W	\$1149	Enquire for more options	



Call us today at: **AA Solar & Sun Power Plus**

70 Forge Rd, Silverdale, Auckland 0932  
 Ph 09 427 4040, email sales@aasolar.co.nz

37F McNally Street, Riverside Industrial Park, Ashburton 7700  
 Ph 03 307 4777

Visit [aasolar.co.nz](http://aasolar.co.nz) for Ts & Cs, warranties, specifications & full product range.

