



## BOAT TEST

Warren Steptoe

*"As centre consoles go, this one is as dry as they come"*



LEFT: The OzVenture 650's console is big enough to be fitted with a marine toilet inside and also provides a measure of shelter from wind-blown spray.  
BELOW: The hull is built in China to a Japanese design which shows a strong influence from similar American centre consoles.



# OzVenture 650

This hefty centre console is as smooth and dry riding as any model in its class could hope to be

**T**HE 6.5M CENTRE console genre has a generally limited appeal in the Australian marketplace. However, anyone looking for a big capable console should check out the OzVenture 650.

The conditions for our test on Moreton Bay off Bribie Island were about as bad as can be to test a centre console, and highlighted a couple of things about this boat.

With a substantial wind chop generated by winds blowing stronger than 20 knots at times, the OzVenture 650's hull showed itself to be remarkably soft-riding and the boat itself stayed dry (for a centre console).

Given enough wind coming in on either bow quarter, it really doesn't matter how good a centre console's hull is or where it deflects displaced water. Strong enough winds will blow spray inside, regardless.

Such are the facts of life in centre consoles, there's no such thing as a dry one. The

only truly dry boats are those with superstructure to hide behind. However, I hasten to emphasise that as centre consoles go, this one is as dry as they come.

The OzVenture 650 has an interesting background. It looks (and performs) like an American import, and the influence of the big centre consoles so popular over there is undeniable. But the hull is built in China from a Japanese design and is sold across Asia under several brand names.

The hull is a sophisticated shape underwater, featuring a variable deadrise, turned-down chines and a heavily flared bow. Internally, full use is made of contemporary GRP technology including vacuum bagging and closed cell foam sandwich construction to achieve a strong lightweight hull.

Australian importer and distributor, OzVenture, brings the hulls in, powers them exclusively with Evinrude E-TEC outboards, sets them up on dual-axle multi-roller style

hydraulic-braked trailers, and completes the fit-out. The OzVenture 650 hull has a 2.26m beam, making it legally trailerable on Australian roads without special permits.

This is a valid point regarding imported boats, more of which exceed trailerable width for Australian roads (you can trailer them, but you need an 'overwidth' permit) than is commonly acknowledged. Less-than-scrupulous dealers sometimes gloss over the considerable inconvenience involved!

For the \$65,000 quoted for our test boat, the fit-out is good. It includes a sounder/GPS and marine radio, interior and navigation lighting, hydraulic steering and bilge and deck-wash pumps—all quality brands.

In keeping with its American influence, the OzVenture 650 features numerous interior mouldings. Aft there's substantial stowage space hidden below a wide lounge seat against the engine splash-well.

This lounge may not find favour with some