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LUXURY IN MOTION

Calling James Bond: Anticipation high for Aston Martin speedboat

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The build of the first AM 37 was under the guidance of Quintessence Yachts production director Ben Collett, and the template was created by naval architect Bas Mulder and Marek Reichman's Aston Martin design team. Courtesy of Quintessence Yachts

By Christine Davis

Special to the Daily News
 Just a couple of years ago "Luxury in Motion" featured Miami architect Luiz de Basto's Voyage, a concept speedboat inspired by Aston Martin's Vantage, Rapide, DBS and Virage. He designed it mainly to keep his mind fine-tuned, and he never meant for it to go into production.

In April 2015, though, a whole series of Aston Martin-inspired powerboats were announced

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Details inside the Aston Martin speedboat. Courtesy of Quintessence Yachts.

with the intention of producing them, and, currently its first model, the 37-foot "7 Series" AM37, is about to come on the market with two versions. It arrives on the heels of the latest James Bond movie, *Spectre*, which has all kinds of amazing vehicles, including the bespoke Aston Martin DB10 (it's bulletproof and has a rear-facing flamethrower), Jaguars, Range Rovers, a vintage Rolls-Royce, Chuck Aaron's MBB Bo105 helicopter, an Aerospatiale SA 365 N2 Dauphin 2 helicopter, and a Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander airplane, as well as a center-console-style boat that looks to be military or special forces, and a London police speedboat.

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Shown are the sliding-deck technology and the remote-controlled devices. The user interface of the multimedia and entertainment system is installed in a 15-inch touch screen on the dashboard. Courtesy of Quintessence Yachts.

In spring, Dutch boat builders Quintessence Yachts, with Aston Martin, presented renderings at Aston Martin's Gaydon headquarters, announcing that the speedboat would be presented last September — but it wasn't.

"The production process is about to be completed, then we'll have tests on water," said Mariella Mengozzi, Quintessence Yachts CEO. "We're working on details, and we're producing a speedboat that is even more impressive than (shown in previous) renderings. Actually, we preferred to favor quality and design and the AM37 that will be unveiled will be the real speedboat and not a prototype."

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Creating an air of mystery, details have been sketchy and only revealed more fully to potential owners.

Mengozzi said: "We are sure that the Aston Martin ethos of 'power, beauty and soul' can be successfully translated into the yachting environment in a very special way."

Katia Bassi, managing director of Aston Martin Brands, said little more: "Our contemporary designs retain classic lines whilst delivering the latest technical innovations, and the exciting range of luxury speedboats we are developing with Quintessence Yachts reflects this commitment to excellence in every field, as well as perfectly encapsulating our 'Art of Living' philosophy."

In other words, it's about philosophy, emotional connection, and the eye of the beholder.

Here's what's known so far. There's room for eight passengers and its cabin is crafted in sculpted wood and hand-stitched leather. Unveiled as a gran turismo leisure powerboat, the AM37 will have two 370 hp diesel engines and a maximum speed of around 44 knots. The higher version, the AM37 S, will have two 520 hp engines and a cruising speed of 32 knots, topping it up to 52 knots.

The hulls feature high-tech composite with epoxy resin and the structural parts are made of carbon fiber.

It will have a sliding deck, composed of three carbon panels, which is operated by an electronic command. At the end of the day, owners can completely cover the cockpit to protect it from the elements and uninvited guests. Next day out, upon command, it slides back under the aft deck for easy boarding or swimming.

Technologies include integrated navigation, control monitor and entertainment systems with interactive voice control. It also has air conditioning, a fridge, and a remotely controlled espresso machine that can get coffee brewing from afar.

Mengozzi said production will be in the UK, "not just to try to put elements of the Aston Martin car into a yacht but to translate the Aston Martin DNA and identity in a totally new concept."

Pricing has not been announced.

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