

## DRIVE



### Automakers exhibit nautical side

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Formance AMG division are no strangers to the big boat show and were back this year with another racing craft, the 50-foot Cigarette Racing Team 50 Marauder AMG. The Mercedes-AMG GT R was the inspiration for the design.

After making its debut in September at Monaco, Aston Martin showed its first nautical effort, the prototype Aston Martin AM37 powerboat, an eightpassenger day cruiser designed around the sort of styling cues for which Aston Martin is well known.

Honda, which has been producing marine engines for more than 50 years, unveiled its newest concept outboard engine, the Honda Marine Design Concept Engine inspired by the new Acura NSX supercar.

The NSX-inspired concept “imagines a bold new engine for the future of what marine engines

could be,” Honda said in its news release.

Done by Honda’s Advanced Design Group, and is taller but slimmer than the typical marine outboard. A sculpted center channel is inlaid with an NSXstyle honeycomb mesh for improved aerodynamics and engine cooling. The engine has what Honda calls “the floating winged blade,” another NSX design cue, to enhance the sleek, vertical aero design.

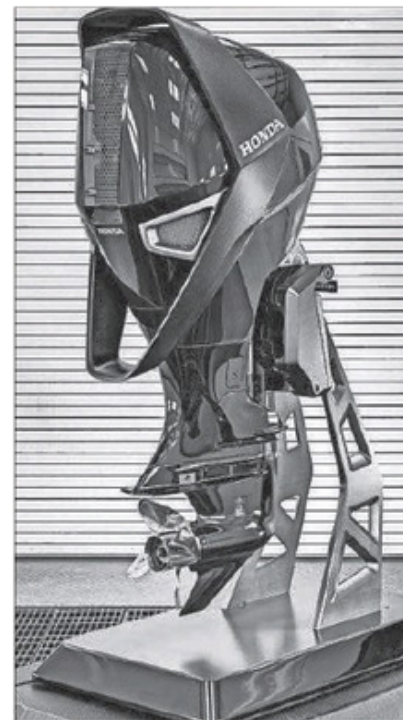
Meanwhile, Aston Martin’s AM37 is the prototype for a series of boats to be built by Quintessence Yachts in the U.K. It has a double-curvature windscreen and a power-operated sliding deck so the cockpit — similar to the interior of an Aston Martin automobile — can be covered or uncovered. The power-operated carbon-fiber bi-

mini top stores above the engine’s hatch when not in use.

Though designed as a day cruiser, the AM37 includes a double bed in an air-conditioned cabin that also has a refrigerator, microwave, espresso machine and on-board lavatory.

The boats will be available with either a pair of 370-horsepower Mercury inboard diesel engines or 430-horse Mercury gasoline engines, or as the AM37S with a pair of 520-horse Mercury gasoline engines.

The 50-foot Cigarette boat celebrates the 10th anniversary of the MercedesAMG/Cigarette Racing partnership and the 50th anniversary of the MercedesAMG relationship. The use of carbon fiber lightens the boat by more than 1,300 pounds.



Tall and dramatic in design, the Honda Marine Design Concept Engine was inspired by the new Acura NSX supercar.

Power comes from a pair of Mercury Racing 1550/1350 QC4v engines, which provide as much as 3,100 horsepower, though the boat can be operated at 1,350 horsepower on 91 octane fuel.

The boat’s color is called Green Hell Magno, a salute to the north

loop of the famed Nuburgring race track.

