

# ON TEST: BOREAL 52

## TEST FACTS

Tested by Matthew Sheahan



- ▶ Where we tested: La Rochelle
- ▶ Wind: I'm sure she'd lap up a white-crested Atlantic swell, but we were delivered a light, sub-10 knots breeze and flat sea.
- ▶ Model: cutter rig with fully battened slab-reefing mainsail and lazyjack system



# The sailor's off-roader

Is this 52-footer the Land Rover Discovery of sailing? Matthew Sheahan sails a no-nonsense, rugged French cruiser with an eye for adventure

Photos by Jean-Marie Liot

If 'off-road' or 'off-piste' were categories in sailing, the Boréal 52 would be among the top contenders. From the brushed aluminium topsides to the no-nonsense, multi-layered protection offered by the distinctive double-stacked coachroof/doghouse, this 52-footer has unquestionably been designed to go anywhere and to head-butt the conditions when the going gets tough.

Designed by company founder and long-time sailor Jean François Delvoye, the

Boréal range, which comprises six models, is built in Tréguier on the north coast of Brittany. Like her sisterships, the 52 is one of a growing number of deepwater, long-distance yachts conceived as much for exploration as for liveaboard family sailing. Indeed, Delvoye set up the company in 2005, creating the now-discontinued Boréal 50 after returning from a six-year voyage with his wife and four children.

To some, the purposeful, robust, utilitarian style is the standard to

