



ROBERT HOLLAND

**FAST PACE:** The Hustler 50 Pace Boat proving it can hustle (opening spread); the aircraft-style wraparound dash (above); the triple Lamborghini installation (right).

**W**e looked suspicious, we really did—and sure enough, we got “busted” by U.S. Customs. For one thing, the Hustler 50 Pace Boat Edition I was driving that fateful day fit the profile of a high performance drug-runner. And then there was the fact that you’ve got to be either crazy or up to no good when—despite small-craft warnings and hardly another boat in sight—you’re screaming across Miami’s Biscayne Bay from the direction of the Bahamas at almost 100 miles an hour in 25- to 35-mph winds and heavy three-foot chop, with seven- to eight-foot seas outside. At least that’s what the officers aboard two speedboats trailing us in hot pursuit seemed to think.

There was no way the duo, a 38-foot I/O-powered Cigarette led by a 37-foot Midnight Express with four 200-hp outboards, could have caught our 50-footer with its triple 650-hp DDC-Lamborghini V-12s and Arneson surface drives—until I pulled back on the throttles to make a turn. With our eyes glued to the water ahead and the surroundings blurred by speed, we hadn’t realized they were after us. But suddenly, there they were, signalling us to stop.

When one of the officers asked where we were coming from, the Hustler people—Global Marine Chairman Michael Pandolfelli and Managing Director Paul Fiore—replied, “The Marriott Ho-

tel...she’s just test-driving the boat.” The answer didn’t seem to wash. “But,” the officer protested with a smirk, pointing offshore, “you were coming from *that* way.” It took a 20-minute computer check of the Hustler’s dealer plates, via radio, for the officers to clear us. As we took off again, I called out, “*This* is the boat you need if you want to catch the *real* smugglers!”

I wasn’t kidding. The 50 is one incredible machine. Serving as both a demo model and the official pace boat for the U.S. Offshore Racing Association’s World Championships, the Hustler 50 Pace Boat Edition prototype is a joint venture involving semicustom builder Global Marine Performance of Long Island, Detroit Diesel Corp. (as a distributor of marinized Lamborghini gas engines), and Twin Disc/Arneson Drives. In terms of horsepower-to-weight ratios, the Hustler motto is “Pound for pound, power for power, we build the fastest deep-V pleasure boats.” The company has reportedly built more 100-mph-plus deep-V pleasure boats than any other U.S. manufacturer, and its raceboats have won both world and national offshore championships.

Now, Fiore says, the 50 is being groomed to shatter all American Power Boat Association and international deep-V speed records. The boat’s top speed

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## Lamborghini V-12 Italian Stallions

By TIM BANSE

**W**hy spend \$75,000 apiece for marinized Lamborghini gas engines when other potent big-block race motors cost tens of thousands of dollars less? Surprisingly, the answer isn’t limited to status. There are decidedly more practical reasons, starting with longevity and reliability. Quite simply, you can ride these Italian stallions hard all day long and put them away wet.