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# Making waves: boats transform for summer

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It's the season, for some of us at least, when summer climes and lapping waves are in our thoughts. But what, once you're happily ensconced in, say, Amalfi or Cap d'Antibes, to dash through the waves in? Perhaps a classic vessel such as a [Riva](#), among which we'd suggest the Aquariva Super, which exudes timeless elegance, but for something newer and decidedly more technically impressive from the brand, the 88 Florida might – pardon the pun – float your boat.

The Florida is sold as having the "thrill of a coupe and the freedom of an open" - and this is because it is the first Riva to boast a convertible hard top roof. In quite a feat of engineering, the solid roof swings up or down on two arms driven by hydraulics and sensors in the moving parts so that the mechanism is aware of crew and passengers and thus sea-goers should be safe as the boat transforms.



In coupé configuration, the hard top is

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locked on the windshield and anchored onto the roll bar. The arms can then be disconnected from the top and retracted into the storage peaks on the deckhouse; suitably impressive. And if you like this idea but would prefer to stay on the smaller scale of craft, the 32-foot [Reversys](#) concept is a very similar offering, if it comes to market.

One concept definitely coming to sea shores near you soon is the Optimus Prime of the boat world, the transforming [Kormaran](#). This Austrian marvel can cruise on (or above) the waves as either a catamaran, trimaran, monohull or hydrofoil. By manoeuvring its pair of hydraulically actuated kinetic outrigger hulls the craft will turn into almost anything you could wish for. When electronically drawn inwards, these hulls merge into



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the central fuselage to create a monohull. When partially deployed, you get a catamaran as the body section rises out of the water. Push the hulls out all the way and that central body drops down becoming the third hull of a trimaran.

If this array of choices was not sufficient, included is a set of fold-out hydrofoils. In monohull mode, these hydrofoils will push the Kormaran completely out of the water. Of course, with the entire body out of the water, resistance is drastically reduced and this means from the 493HP triple jet drive the Kormaran can reach speeds of 44mph, and what's more it has a range of 200 km at top speed.

The price of this marine marvel is yet to be set, but with a craft that can become almost anything aquatic you may need, at least that's one difficult decision dealt with. The life aquatic will be all the more thrilling.

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