

POWER *AND* PRESTIGE

A repowered *Admiral Hornblower* continues a legacy of entertainment along the southern California coast



Admiral Hornblower cruises past San Diego powered by four John Deere marine engines, two for propulsion and two powering generators.

As the *Admiral Hornblower* cruises along San Diego, the regal California vessel with its classic plumb bow and round stern hints of one sailing in from the turn of the century.

Passengers gather on the three large decks and soak in the scenery of the city's shoreline, capturing pictures. Inside, the aroma of seasoned cuisine wafts through the vessel's passageways as chefs prepare dinner.

It's a moment in time enjoyed by countless passengers over the years who've experienced San Diego afloat on the *Admiral Hornblower*. Owned and operated by Hornblower Cruises and Events, the 43-meter (141-foot) *Admiral* cruises daily, giving harbor tours by day and dinner cruises by night. It also hosts a wide variety of private charters and serves as a backup whale-watching touring vessel.

“It’s easily the most classic and widely photographed cruise boat we have sailing out of San Diego.”

— Nicholas Maxwell, Hornblower Cruises and Events

“San Diego is a pretty busy port, and we are usually sailing 365 days a year,” says Nicholas Maxwell, port captain for Hornblower Cruises and Events. “*Admiral* is a workhorse.”

Designed by Nickum and Spaulding Associates of Seattle, Washington, the vessel has sailed along the California coast for many years. One of the first built by Hornblower, the vessel launched in 1984 as the *M/V City of San Francisco* before it later moved to San Diego and was renamed *Lord Hornblower*. After years of service, the vessel was remodeled and rechristened *Admiral Hornblower* in 2014.

The past four years, *Admiral Hornblower* had everything needed to properly entertain guests with its three spacious salons, three full-service bars, two dance floors, and seating for up to 500 guests. Yet, deep down, something was missing. Alongside the John Deere-powered generators in the

engine room were two old propulsion engines in dire need of replacing. The old engines were not John Deere and would need to be dismantled for removal to avoid disturbing the newly renovated interior. “Ease of installation was a big consideration when selecting a power plant,” says Maxwell.

Dependable Marine, a John Deere marine dealer in San Diego, supplied just what *Admiral Hornblower* needed: a new set of 429-kW (575-hp) PowerTech™ 6135SFM85 engines.


“We replaced engines with a V configuration with inline 6-cylinder engines that were narrow enough to fit down the engine room stairs, which made it possible to accomplish the repower without taking out carpet and cutting deck plates in the main dining area.”

Now with four John Deere engines in the hull, *Admiral Hornblower* runs better than ever, says Maxwell. The repower added 75 kW (100 hp) of propulsion power and torque performance also improved. “It’s nice to have more power and torque to get the vessel up to speed and for maneuvering,” he says.

Plus, the full-displacement vessel weighing 454 metric tons (500 U.S. tons) is fuel efficient. Cruising 12.5 knots at 1650 rpm, each engine consumes about 45 liters (12 gallons) per hour. “We have the same fuel consumption rate as our prior engines, but we also have more power now,” Maxwell says.

Also, the engine room is quieter since the repower — a bonus for the crew as well as the passengers seeking a tranquil coastline cruise.

“The *Admiral Hornblower* is the flagship vessel in our fleet of seven entertainment vessels,” Maxwell says. “It’s easily the most classic and widely photographed cruise boat we have sailing out of San Diego. With a host of new improvements, the *Admiral Hornblower* is poised to make many memories for years to come.”

 Distributor: Western Power Products Inc. in Bakersfield, California; www.westernpowerproducts.net
Dealer: Dependable Marine, Inc. in San Diego, California; 619-226-2015

FERRYING NEW YORK

The Admiral is not the only Hornblower vessel that features John Deere engines. In New York City, a new fleet of 20 new ferries operate with generator sets driven by PowerTech 4045TFM85 marine engines. Read our cover article in the Fall 2017 issue. *Editor’s note: The cover explanation on page 2 of that issue incorrectly stated that the engines propelled the ferries; instead, the engines power generators.*

