

Grady-White Fisherman 236: Center Stage

The Grady-White Fisherman 236 center console takes fishing seriously, but also adds family friendly touches.

By Lenny Rudow

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Grady-White is known for building fishing boats, but in the past decade or so they've added a healthy dose of comfort to even fish-oriented models like the [Canyon 271 FS](#) and the [191 CE Coastal Explorer](#). This trend holds true with their newest release, the Fisherman 236.



As is true on most [center console boats](#), fishing remains the main mission, but the Fisherman 236 is dressed up with plenty of comfort-adding features.

The Fisherman 236 doesn't replace an old boat in the line so much as add a new option. Grady's current Fisherman 230 is still being offered, and while the specifications for these two boats are similar (though not mirror images; the 236 posts an LOA 11" longer), the layout of the 236 is clearly tilted more towards multiple use. The 230, for example, has a flush transom with a 35 gallon livewell on one side and a stowage box on the other. The 236, on the other hand, has standard swim platforms on either side of the engine, an added 160-quart insulated box on the port side of the transom, a 15.5 gallon livewell (an optional 25 gallon well can be added in the leaning post), and a fold-out transom seat. This transom expansion forces anglers away from the outboard and will make fighting fish around the prop a bit tougher, but adds gobs of stowage and seating.

An even bigger difference can be seen in the bow, where the 230 has a pair of 101-quart insulated fishboxes that can be used for forward seating when the boat's at rest, and a removable 72 quart cooler that serves as the forward console seat. On the 236, those forward boxes are 89 quarts, the seating has backrests so it can be used comfortably while underway, and the forward console seat is molded in with stowage underneath. Some other family-friendly features this model incorporates include a 10-gallon freshwater system with a shower at the transom, a portable MSD in the console head compartment, and an optional pop-up ski pylon.



The bow of the 236 is clearly oriented more towards comfort than fishability.

Despite the differences, performance between the two models is extremely similar. Since the 230 is slightly trimmer it does have a higher top end (44.0 MPH versus 43.2 MPH with a [Yamaha F250 V6](#) four-stroke outboard) and cruise (32.5 MPH versus 33.1 MPH at 4500 RPM). Differences this minor can be negated by the weight of an extra passenger or a full fuel tank, so they're more or less negligible. Both boats can also be rigged with an F300, and gain a few MPH at top-end and cruise. Seakeeping qualities should also be very close to one another, since both ride on Grady-White's variable-degree deadrise SeaV2 hullform.

The Fisherman 236 is built in standard Grady-White fashion, with a composite stringer grid, a transom backed with aluminum bracing, and foam blown into the belowdecks cavities. Hulls are cured in the mold to ensure they retain their shape, and when the boat's completed a 150-point quality check is performed. Even the canvass snaps and straps are fitted at the factory, an extra step few builders ever bother with.

If you're buying a 23 center console purely for fishing, the Fisherman 236 may well be a bit dressier than you need. For weekend warriors with a wife and kids, however, this one could be a winner.

For more information, [visit Grady-White](#).

See [Grady-White Fisherman 236 listings](#).

Specifications

Length	23'7"
Beam	8'6"
Draft	1'7"
Deadrise	20 degrees
Displacement	TBD
Fuel capacity	115 gal.
Water capacity	10 gal.