



Grady-White Fisherman 216

Early on in her career at Grady-White Boats, Marketing Vice President Shelley Tubaugh learned a valuable lesson. At various fishing tournaments up and down the East Coast, she asked Grady-White owners for their number one piece of advice for a first-time boat owner. “Some were on their first Grady, some were on their eighth Grady,” says Tubaugh. But all gave a similar answer. “Without any other prompting, without any of them knowing what the others had said, they all said in some way, I would tell [that person] to go ahead and spend the money and get the Grady the first time.”

That bit of advice stuck with her. “A lot of our customers are experienced boaters. They’ve owned boats before,” says Tubaugh. It also speaks to the lengths Grady-White goes in developing high-quality products—center and dual consoles from 18- to 45-foot—that seem to resonate with its clients, no matter if that person is a first-time boat owner or someone looking for a second boat to run around in with their children or grandchildren.

New this year, the Fisherman 216 has that high-

quality pedigree. It’s imbued with the same DNA as the larger center consoles in the builder’s lineup, such as its helicopter-grade acrylic glass windshield that comes standard. With its SeaV2 hull with 19 degrees of transom deadrise, the 21-footer retains the seaworthiness and bluewater stability of its larger predecessors. Standout features on the 216 include a twin boarding platforms and aft backrests that swing neatly out of the way—with reversible, self-stowing cushions with nonskid bottoms. They should make boarding easier for everyone.

Grady-White also takes customer feedback into consideration when adding innovative touches. For the 216, that meant adding additional rungs to the boat’s swim ladder and optional seat backrests forward that convert to side bolsters when you’re fighting fish. “People often make the mistake of getting into a less expensive, less quality boat first because they’re trying it out,” says Tubaugh. “But buying a higher-quality product is a better investment when you factor in the easier upkeep, lower maintenance and having the features you really want and need.” —*Simon Murray*