

BY CHRIS WOODWARD

FIVE COMPACT ULTIMATE WEEKENDERS

Vessels Under 40 Feet You Can Take to the Islands

AS SUMMER APPROACHES, anglers daydream about the islands — any islands, where warm breezes ripple the seas and chunky snapper swarm reefs. Or perhaps your tastes run to simple trips along the coast, hopscotching productive shorelines and anchoring under the stars.

Some boats are purely made for just these kinds of weekend adventures.

GRADY-WHITE EXPRESS 330



SPECS: LOA: 33 ft. 6 in. • Beam: 11 ft. 7 in. Transom Deadrise: 19 deg.
Dry Weight: 10,840 lb. • Max Power: 700 hp

Grady-White makes a wide range of great weekend boats, from its Freedom dual consoles to its center-console Canyon and Walkaround Cabin models. So choosing one proved difficult for the builder. However, if so limited, Grady chooses the Express 330, for these reasons:

- Award-winning ride from the C. Raymond Hunt-designed SeaV2 hull, created using a series of wedges (no rounded shapes). No two places on the keel carry the same deadrise. Amidships, it features a 30-degree angle. At the transom, the 20-degree incline and wide chines provide stability at rest and while trolling.

- “Check the spray coming off a SeaV2 hull,” says David Neese, vice president of engineering. “You can actually see three bow wakes in smooth water. That’s the individual deflectors working. This is

the reason SeaV2 hulls are drier running than boats with rounded sections that blow spray past the strakes and chines and into the cockpit.”

- The deck design of this express allows for more space in the cabin (6 feet 2 inches of headroom), making roomy accommodations for five people to overnight. A spacious two-person V-berth lies at the bow, a full-size aft berth sleeps two more, and a midship berth offers room for a fifth.

- A great floor plan belowdecks that is light, well ventilated, and air conditioned. The vessel also features a six-gallon water heater and 44-gallon water tank for the separate head and shower.

For anglers, the Express 330 comes with a standard 45-gallon livewell with full-column distribution to keep bait lively longer. The vessel provides ample flush rod holders and undergunwale storage, toe rails, a 63-gallon insulated fish box with overboard drain, tackle drawers and trim tabs.

Order Grady’s new AV2 hardtop and enjoy an electronically opening sunroof with excellent ventilation, a pull-across screen and shade, and storage nets. Also optional: a SureShade electrically operated cockpit awning and helm air conditioning.

The Express 330 comes with a transom door for fishing or swimming convenience, and overnight anglers can install an optional cooler/freezer in the aft fish box and a helm cooler box, a grill, and a refrigerator.

Below: The Express 330’s cabin features a well-equipped galley, 6 feet 2 inches of headroom and fore and aft berths that each sleep two people.

