

2021

FISHING BOAT BUYER'S GUIDE

2020 was a year that we'd all like to forget. One of the bright spots during the pandemic was that the world suddenly wanted to go boating - and all at the same time. New boats, used boats, old boats, new boats - if it floated, someone wanted to buy it and get out on the water to escape from reality. The bottom line is

that the boating industry is one of the few that has thrived during the past year's economic gyrations and lockdowns and the price of fuel is still relative inexpensive, making your trips on the briny relatively affordable. So get onboard and let's take a closer look at some of the new boats for the 2021 season.

GRADY-WHITE

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Although this North Carolina builder has nothing new for 2021 as of this writing, I've heard scuttlebutt that they've been working on a "top secret" project that is sworn to secrecy. Until this newbie is introduced, one of the latest second-gen Gradys to hit the marinas is their new-and-improved Canyon 336. I have spent over 100 hours of wheel time during my away charters with the first-generation 336s and you will be hard pressed to find a more predictable, smooth, dry and comfortable ride in any other boat in its class. Even in three to four footers, it seems like its running on rails.

Grady-White Marketing VP Shelley Tubaugh walked me through the nuances of the latest Canyon 336 at last year's Miami Boat Show and she was like a momma bear showing off her new cub. Grady-White's state-of-the-art full height glass windshield, completely integrated T-top, and new, sleek styling elements accentuate this Carolina girl's good looks and eye appeal. The ergonomically advanced helm and all-glass windshield provide improved line of sight and overall visibility. Combined with the fiberglass T-top, this creates a superstructure that together, eliminates the need for side curtains and provides ample wind and spray protection for up to three at the helm. Optional canvas wing curtains offer added coverage if needed and an electric vent in the center of the windshield means you don't have to sacrifice air circulation for added protection.

Other stand-out features of the 336 include Yamaha's Helm Master EX along with an all new helm design that offers room for dual supersized 17-inch flush mount



electronic panels located closer to the captain. This redesigned console and T-top allows added walkaround space around the console and expansion of both the cockpit and bow. A deluxe lean bar features three adjustable contoured helm chairs with deluxe flip-up bolsters and footrests. The 45-gallon insulated raw water livewell, rigging station with cold freshwater shower, 104-quart cooler, cutting board, lockable bulk storage and dedicated tackle storage, two knife and plier holders and six rod holders complete this extensive list of standard features. Optional equipment includes a new electric grill, 26-gallon livewell and an integrated electrically retractable SureShade cockpit shade with Sunbrella canvas, bow thruster, water heater, air conditioner and diesel generator. The spacious console offers plenty of room down below for a head, freshwater sink, storage and vee-berth area that is perfect for catching a few winks during those long canyon overnights, or to get out of the hot sun on family beach days. Rigged with a pair of Yamaha's 425 XTO V8s, she'll hit a top speed of 53 mph and her optimum cruise is 30 mph at only 3700 rpm.