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NEW BOATS

2013 MIAMI BOAT SHOW



LOA: 48'11"
BEAM: 15'8"
DRAFT: 3'9"
STD. ENGINES: 2/480-MHP
CUMMINS QSB6.7 DIESELS
CRUISE SPEED: 20 KNOTS
TOP SPEED: 25 KNOTS
PRICE: UPON REQUEST

- ▶ GRAND BANKS 43 HERITAGE EU
- ▶ BACK COVE YACHTS DOWNEAST 37
- ▶ TOMMY BAHAMA EDITION HACKER-CRAFT 27
- ▶ FAIRLINE SQUADRON 60
- ▶ SUNSEEKER PREDATOR 68

Grand Banks 43 Heritage EU

When you consider how thoroughly modern many of the features onboard Grand Banks's newest model are, it really is pretty ironic that she is part of the company's "Heritage" series. After all, precision joystick controls and top speeds over 25 knots aren't exactly old-timey and traditional on a trawler. Indeed those two attributes in particular are more often found on express cruisers meant for skipping around the bay on a sunny afternoon, not on a

cruiser designed for long runs down the coast or around the Great Loop. But then again, the 43 EU is a boat packed with pleasant surprises.

One of the more enviable of these features is a cockpit that is 30 percent larger than the 43's predecessor, the 41. What's more, the saloon's aft door opens wide to connect the interior and exterior spaces to make one large entertainment space, perfect for hosting guests when in port.

The boat's other main enter-

tainment area is of course the flying bridge, which extends far aft, increasing its square footage. An L-shaped dining settee to starboard and a bench seat to port complement a center-aligned helm chair. That helm is hooked up with the aforementioned joystick, as is the indoor helm down below. The after section of the bridgedeck has room for an optional 800-pound davit for hoisting a tender.

Down below, the 43's accom-

modations level has everything a cruising couple could want in their living space. The vessel has two good-sized staterooms that enjoy loads of natural light thanks to enlarged portholes in the hull. The forepeak master has ample stowage space and also an en suite head for privacy. A queen-sized island berth ensures that the 43's owners will sleep like babies. The portside guest cabin has twin berths that can conveniently be combined into one

larger unit, and has access to a wet head, also to port.

Grand Banks expects big things out of this launch, and it's easy to see why. She's got a highly functional layout and amenities to spare, not to mention some undeniably sporty running numbers. When she's shown at this year's Miami show, expect to be wowed—but don't expect anything too old-fashioned.

206-352-0116;
www.granbanks.com

Back Cove Yachts Downeast 37



LOA: 38'2" STD. ENGINE: 1/480-MHP TOP SPEED: 25 KNOTS
BEAM: 13'0" CUMMINS QSB6.7 DIESEL PRICE: \$433,500
DRAFT: 2'6" CRUISE SPEED: 20 KNOTS

Back Cove Yachts is pretty clear about the intent of its new Downeast 37, which is slated to launch this July. The company describes the boat this way: "The ideas that drive the Downeast 37 design are very simple: Stop-you-in-your-tracks prettiness and the biggest, most flexible exterior spaces available on a boat this size—period." OK then. Let's take a look at her, shall we?

The boat will certainly be easy on the eyes, with classic lines and proportions. When she's paired with a traditional flag-blue, gelcoated hull, the boat truly becomes a piece of nautical Americana.

And the exterior space? That ain't half bad either. After all, this boat was designed

as the ultimate dayboat, (for a full review of the company's other 37, visit www.pnymag.com). And on a dayboat, you want all the space you can have for watersports and leisurely activities in the great outdoors. No need to clutter up things with extraneous cabins—you're sleeping at home tonight. As such, the boat'll have a large, open cockpit with a SureShade cockpit cover, designed especially for afternoon cruising.

You needn't worry about

performance either. The Downeast 37 will have the same hull as her cousin, the Back Cove 37, so her performance should be similarly steady, powered along by a single 480-horsepower Cummins that will have her cruising at 20 knots and racing home to beat bad weather at 25. But let's not dwell on rainstorms, this boat was totally made for fun in the sun.

207-655-2396;
www.backcoveyachts.com

Tommy Bahama Edition Hacker-Craft 27



Peanut butter and jelly, Abbot and Costello, olives and gin—some matches just make sense. That's why it wasn't so surprising when Hacker-Craft, known for building some of the prettiest runabouts you've ever seen, paired with Tommy Bahama, the well-regarded, island-lifestyle brand, to make a 27-foot boat that coincides with the vision of each company. After all, what good is living life like you're on an island if you don't have a boat?

This particular boat took

craftsmen 1,400 man-hours to build—time that appears to have been well spent. The vessel's lines are classic and iconic, and her onboard amenities are myriad. Popular options include leather trim, stainless steel cup holders, and an extra-deep cockpit that features recessed toe kicks. The boat is also replete with Tommy Bahama's logo, so that nobody can be left guessing just who it was that decked out your boat.

And you should be getting a lot of rubbernecks

while driving this boat. She's gorgeous and should handle just like any Hacker-Craft, which is to say, very well. If you're in the market for something sporty with an effortlessly laid-back vibe, then you just may have met your match.

866-540-5546;
www.hackerboat.com

LOA: 27'0"
BEAM: 7'3"
DRAFT: 2'3"
STD. ENGINE: 1/430-BHP
ILMOR MV8 6.2L (GAS)
CRUISE SPEED: 26 KNOTS
TOP SPEED: 34 KNOTS
PRICE: \$329,000