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Monterey M5

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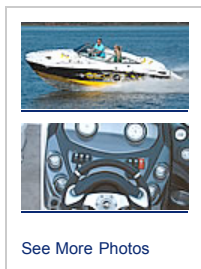
2010 Boat Buyer's Guide

By: Alan Jones and Boating World Staff
January, 2010



Monterey's new M5 is a multipurpose runabout that makes seating conversation-friendly, not just because the people sitting in them can converse freely; it's that they will be talking about the unique seats themselves.

At the bow, it's far wider than most bowriders but doesn't fall prey to the deckboat styling blahs you often see. The seating treatment is a fresh sheet of paper with a huge rearward-facing bow bench that faces twin solo jump seats. The void between the two can be filled with optional cushions if chaise lounging forward is your thing.



The stern is even more interesting. A lot of boats have minimal stern cushions for booting up for skiing or hanging out back, but Monterey put a full-fledged settee back here overlooking the swim platform. If sunning is on the agenda, with the push of a button the stern sofa back/cockpit L-lounge seatback accords out flat and forms a large double-wide pad. Very James Bond-like.

Monterey lets you take the M5 from basic to wow with options like the MSX Package that gives you a collapsible aluminum sport arch with killer speakers. The optional M Graphics on our test boat give it an edgy modern look. In the port-side console - elegantly decked in faux teak - there's a standard Porta Potti, or you can bump it up to a VacuFlush head with a pumpout. You also have a choice of a skiing observer seat behind the driver or a Karadon-surfaced wet bar.

Our test boat is equipped with a 320 hp Volvo Penta 5.7L GXi sterndrive with a single-prop SX outdrive. This setup gave us very good performance for this nearly 26-footer that weighs 5,200 pounds. Time to plane was 4.3 seconds with very little bowrise, and we accelerated to 30 mph in 8.2 seconds with a top speed of 48.3 miles per hour. If you need more attitude, Monterey allows you to bump it all the way to 425 hp, which is guaranteed to get some attention both on and off the boat. With 20 degrees of deadrise, we barely noticed the wakes from other boats.

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