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WEEKEND
AT OCEAN REEF



Two Cool Rides
RENEGADE 33 & 38

Hot New Flagship
REGAL 53SC



If Boats Could Wish

Regal launches a family-friendly flagship designed to please the masses.

Throughout the past several decades the marine industry has witnessed many family-owned U.S. boat builders either bought out by big business, some of which are foreign-owned, or close their doors and shut down operations. Among the few that not only survived but actually thrived is Regal Marine Industries based in Orlando, Florida. Paul and Carol Kuck founded the company in 1969 with investors, but the energy crisis in the early 1970s nearly shut it down. The couple's strong convictions and commitment to creating a family legacy gave them the fortitude to rebuild the company. After 45 years and now with Paul and Carol's children at the helm, Regal debuted the company's new flagship this past October during their dealer meeting at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Florida.

The Regal 53 Sport Coupe replaces the 52 SC first launched in 2008. Lest one assumes the new launch is just a slightly extended version of its predecessor, the 53 SC was redesigned based on customer feedback and incorporated an extensive "wish list". From the looks of it,

those customers got everything they asked for—and then some.

One of those wishes was a retractable 50" flat-screen TV in the salon, which Regal houses in a custom, solid cherry-wood cabinet—satin finish is standard with high-gloss as an option—to the furthest aft and starboard across from a U-shaped dinette and expandable table. The cabinet's granite countertop comes in six different colors—this particular model was in Radiant Shimmer, black with metallic bronze flecks—and has an edge cap to prevent dishes from sliding off. The cabinet's four compartments below can be configured to suit the owner's needs, with refrigerator, icemaker, wine fridge, drawers, shelves, extra storage, and dedicated garbage to keep the trash out of sight. The sliding door opens to the edge of the cabinet, and a drop-down window behind the settee opens up for expanded entertainment space. The aft deck can be configured with

By LIZ PASCH



either wrap-around seating—with repositionable cup-holders—or a bench seat aft with a bar and three stools for the ultimate game-watching experience.

Another example of Regal's attention to customers' wishes is their selection in flooring. Regal found that more than 80 percent of their owners have pets so Amtico flooring—another family-owned company—is used throughout. "This product is dog proof, cat proof, beer-can-dropping proof... it can withstand just about anything," says Frank Stoeber, Regal delivery captain and company consultant. In addition to it being nearly indestructible, the dark woodwork contrasts nicely with the light-colored flooring in either plain birch or birch with rosewood accent stripes; teak is also an option.

With the entire main deck allocated for entertaining, a chef has free range in the spacious galley below, equipped with an L-shaped countertop (granite is an option), stainless steel sink, aluminum backsplash, microwave/convection, double burner cooktop, and Sub-Zero fridge

with two freezer drawers. Panoramic windows port and starboard along with two overhead light tunnels bring in natural light from under the windshield—SureShade retractable screens are on all overhead hatches, which is one more change from the 52. Another flat-screen TV is mounted on the end of the upper cabinet facing the lower entertainment area settee—the area can also be utilized as a third stateroom with twin bunks.

The aforementioned owners' wish list must have included additional sleeping arrangements for large families as evidenced by the number of available options. In addition to the third stateroom option, the forward stateroom can be configured with either a full walk-around queen or a double berth with fixed overhead bunk. Every possible space has been utilized for storage—seven drawers and a hanging closet keep the room tidy. The ensuite has an enclosed shower—save the wiping down for later—and also serves as a dayhead with a separate door from the hallway.



SPECIFICATIONS

LOA: 53'

Beam: 15' 4"

Draft: 46"

Weight: 36,000 lbs.

Fuel/Water: 450/125 U.S. gals

Power: 550 Cummins w/Zeus pods

Cruise/Top Speed: 30/35 mph

Range: 270 miles @ cruise

MSRP: \$1,456,954 (model reviewed)

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Clockwise from top left: The dayhead is accessible from the bow VIP suite and conveniently situated adjacent to the galley and lower entertainment area.

Aft of the galley, the full-beam ensuite master has been designed, well, masterfully. The head and shower compartments are farthest aft against the mechanical compartment wall—enclosed shower is to starboard and the Tecma wet/dry flush toilet and sink to port. Plentiful drawers and a hanging locker offer adequate storage, and an optional combination washer/dryer is concealed within a cabinet. But here's the smart something that you don't expect...at the head of the Olympic-sized queen that faces aft, the small space in the wall has been utilized as cubbyholes to hold all those things you need in the middle of the night—reading glasses, TV remote, antacids, etc. Indeed, one of the cubbies even houses an anchor alarm—a convenient and smart placement since Regal boat hulls are built to be extremely quiet.

Regal hull construction is determined precisely, explains Stoeber.



Whether guests have a preference for sun or shade, entertaining has never been easier than on board the Regal 53 Sport Coupe. Watch the big game from inside or out—the aft door opens wide and the port window drops down to expand the view.

“Regal calculates the ideal boat weight and builds it to within one percent. When glassing, Nydacore is used between the layers to trap air so that heat does not go down thru the glass to the living space below.” This process makes the air conditioning much more efficient and also provides sound deadening. “Adding three-quarters of an inch of Nydacore has a low absorption rate of resin, so the weight is brought down to where it has the most advantage.”

Calculating optimum weight enables identifying optimal power—standard power is 550 Cummins diesels with Zeus pods. “They only load around 80 percent so they’re going to outlive most owners,” Stoeber states. An optional Seakeeper stabilizer also includes a larger generator. The two-seat helm is designed to accommodate dual Garmin screens, and a live feed from an optional camera system can be displayed on any onboard TV to keep an eagle eye on movement at the dock or the stern. The 53 Sport Coupe also has built-in Bluetooth so that different music can be played in each area.

And in case all of that is not enough, a garage has been specifically designed for a Rigid Inflatables tender equipped with a Torqeedo electric outboard. When you sum it all up, if I could be a boat, the Regal 53 Sport Coupe would be at the top of my wish list. 🍷