

# Cruisers yachts



By Thomas Ludens

[cruisersyachts.com](http://cruisersyachts.com)

**I**f you were going to start one of the world's foremost yacht companies, you might not pick Oconto, Wisconsin as your headquarters. Nearly alone on a remote shore of Green Bay, with a population under 5,000, it's not exactly as glamorous or high profile as South Florida or the South of France. But this is where Cruisers Yachts began, and it is here where the company grew into the outsize success of today.

The legacy of Cruisers begins, however, before the company did. It started in the 1890s, 60 years before the formal birth of Cruisers, when a boatbuilder named Peter Thompson began working at the Racine Boat Company. In 1904, Peter and his brothers founded the Thompson Bros. Boat Manufacturing Co. in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. The next generation of Thompson boys also went into the business and began the Thompson Boat Mart at Woodruff. In 1953, the brothers sold the Thompson Boat Mart and devoted their full attention to the Peshtigo operation. That summer, Thompson laborers in Peshtigo went on strike and the younger Thompsons seized the opportunity and launched Cruisers Inc.

It was 1956 when the first Cruisers, Inc. catalog was issued. It featured wood lapstrake outboard cabin cruisers. Within a decade, they had switched to fiberglass. Today, they make yachts as long as 58 feet in a 450,000-square-foot facility that also houses their sister brand, Rampage Yachts.

We take a look at six of the models that are made there and that are admired by boaters throughout the world. They range in size. They vary in performance. They have different amenities. Despite their differences, one thing remains consistent amongst all of them: these boats aren't just built on the Great Lakes; they perform on them too.



<b>Length:</b>	<b>52'3"</b>
<b>Beam:</b>	<b>15'6"</b>
<b>Draft (IPS):</b>	<b>44"</b>
<b>Fuel Capacity:</b>	<b>500 gals</b>
<b>Water Capacity:</b>	<b>150 gals</b>

## 520 Sports Coupe

Only just unveiled this January, the 520 Sports Coupe takes the best of its sister vessel, the 520 Express, and improves. This begins atop, with the enclosed cockpit. Here, you will find both a power actuated sunroof with a manual sky shade and standard cockpit air/heat climate control system. So, whether you want to keep the cockpit sealed or open, you'll have good air circulation. It's this kind of forward thinking that defines how designers retooled the entire vessel.

They were already beginning with the stylish and popular template of a 52-foot vessel that included a pair of ample staterooms and a broad deck. Let's say you've been out for a swim and climb up onto the full width swim platform. There, you'll find a long bench seating area and storage underneath. You'll also find dual entrances up to the luxurious cockpit and the many amenities awaiting you there. You can take a seat at the huge cockpit seating area, which includes a large high-lo cockpit table that can be used as an additional lounge arrangement. You can grab a drink at the wet bar or something to eat at the electric grill. You can sit in the companion chair and consult with your captain or, if you've chosen the option, watch

your 26-inch flat screen TV. Or, you can keep moving forward, head through the walk-through windshield and relax on the optional side-by-side chaise lounge foredeck sunpad.

Below deck, you'll find the same level of comfort. Designers have doubled the number of vertical portholes. With sunlight and air streaming through these 12 windows, the two suites, salon and galley are that much more pleasant. The master suite features a large queen-size walk-around island berth, an elegant settee, a private head with a separate shower stall, abundant storage, a 20-inch LCD TV with DVD and even an optional washer-dryer unit. The layout of the forward stateroom is up to you, as it can accommodate either a second queen-size berth or twin berths, depending on your needs.

The natural cherry wood interior of these suites cloaks the entire living space, including the extensive galley and salon. So, whether you're preparing dinner in the inventive portside galley, which includes everything from a large refrigerator to a double sink and a lighted liquor cabinet, or relaxing on the crescent-shaped convertible dinette/sofa that curves along the starboard side of the yacht, you'll do so in a classic and cozy environment.

Available with:  
**VOLVO  
 PENTA  
 TRIPLE  
 IPS**





<b>Length:</b>	<b>45'2"</b>
<b>Beam:</b>	<b>14'6"</b>
<b>Draft (IPS):</b>	<b>48"</b>
<b>Fuel Capacity:</b>	<b>370 gals</b>
<b>Water Capacity:</b>	<b>100 gals</b>

## 447 Sport Sedan

While it is a big, muscular boat, the 447 Sport Sedan is far from unwieldy. And while it features sleek lines and elegant appointments, it is far from minimal. In a word, this yacht combines the best of both worlds.

If you're looking to lounge outside, there's the open bridge and cockpit above. If you want to retreat to the comforts of the indoors, there's the enclosed salon, galley and staterooms of the first level. If you're looking to make even more room onboard this already spacious vessel, the aft area is open for storage. Whether you're looking for gas or diesel, the 447 offers a full complement of power offerings, including Volvo Penta's excellent Inboard Performance System.

Taking a closer look, you'll find the same attention to versatility. Both heat and air conditioning are available options on the bridge, so you can cruise later and earlier in the season, when it's cooler outside. The bridge also features an L-shaped lounge, a wet bar area with a refrigerator, a 120-watt Sirius-adaptable CD stereo, a sun deck chaise lounge area and a centered console that maximizes visibility.

The cockpit area below can also be customized to include another wet bar, additional seating and a foldaway table. From here, full-size sliding doors open into the salon. The port L-shaped salon sofa here has double incliners, a starboard sofa/sleeper and a 23-inch LCD TV home theater. The galley, located just forward, features a U-shaped cooking area that maximizes the work space. It has much of what you would expect—a microwave/convection oven, a two-burner electric stove and a stainless steel refrigerator/freezer unit—as well as a couple of perks—a hidden coffee maker and a secured china cabinet.

When you enter the forward master stateroom, you find a queen-sized island berth and a head with a separate shower, as well as a glass-bowl sink. The aft stateroom includes a sitting area, six vertical opening portholes and access into a second head with a shower. It also offers twin berths that convert to a single king-size bed.

That's just one more detail that illustrates that this boat doesn't make you choose. In this case, as in every aspect, the 447 gives you the best of both worlds.



Available with:  
**VOLVO**  
**PENTA**  
**IPS**



<b>Length:</b>	<b>43'0" / 38'0"</b>
<b>Beam:</b>	<b>13'6" / 12'6"</b>
<b>Draft (IPS):</b>	<b>44" / 42"</b>
<b>Fuel Capacity:</b>	<b>300 gals/300 gals</b>
<b>Water Capacity:</b>	<b>80 gals/64 gals</b>

## 420 Express / 360 Express

These two boats, the 420 Express and the 360 Express, are variations on a theme. The theme is this: stylish functionality. Take the 360, for example. New in 2008, it features an open concept cockpit and a spacious interior that allow plenty of space for moving about and entertaining. Viewed from the dock, or the deck of a passing vessel, its sporty exterior styling draws attention—and envy. And the 420 is no different, though five feet longer and a foot wider.

Its relatively small size—relative to other Cruiser yachts and not to other boatbuilders—doesn't prevent the 360 from featuring a queen-size island berth. Ample storage, a ventilation hatch and portholes on either side mean that this isn't a cramped closet with a bed stuffed into it. No, this stateroom is comparable to those on larger boats.

And there's another double-sized berth in the U-shaped lounge amidships. An optional bulkhead and door can be added to make this a second stateroom. Not only that, but you can add even more sleeping space with an optional sofa sleeper in the salon's sofa dinette. The 420 features a similar layout, though on a slightly larger scale.

However many guests you have staying aboard overnight, you'll have no trouble whiling away a day. If you're the captain, the

wide double captain's seat with a portside companion lounge keeps you comfortable and accompanied at the helm. Navigating is made even easier by a functional, user-friendly dash and an instrument panel that houses an optional Raymarine electronics package that includes a VHS radio, digital depth finder, GPS and C80 eight-inch chart plotter.

If you're just along for the ride, the generous aft seating is a perfect perch from which to watch the world go by. The two tables there convert to a sun lounge and can also be hidden away to create additional floor space. Removable carpet, optional synthetic teak flooring, exterior gel colors and other interior options let you customize the look of the space.

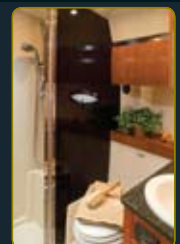
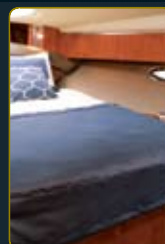
From here, the walk-through windshield and side-deck walk around provide easy access to the foredeck. Or, aft of the cockpit, there's a swim platform with self-draining storage and a concealed top-mounted stainless steel swim ladder. An LCD TV, a stereo system and teak-floored galley will keep you occupied and satisfied when you or your guests want to come out of the sun to relax.

With so many amenities and so much space, these boats get the job done. And they do it in style.

Available with:

**VOLVO  
PENTA  
IPS**

**GAS OR  
DIESEL**





<b>Length:</b>	<b>43'0"</b>
<b>Beam:</b>	<b>13'6"</b>
<b>Draft (IPS):</b>	<b>44"</b>
<b>Fuel Capacity:</b>	<b>300 gals</b>
<b>Water Capacity:</b>	<b>80 gals</b>

## 420 Sports Coupe

When it debuted in 2007, the 390 Sports Coupe featured Cruisers' first enclosed cockpit. Developed with the input of the company's dealers and customers, they designed a comfortable space that compliments the overall yacht layout. Another distinctive advantage of the sports coupe is the reduced canvas that yachters don't have to work with.

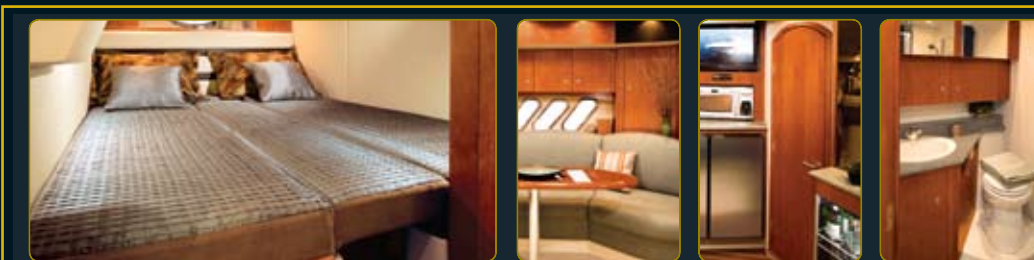
With the success of the 390, Cruisers added the 520 SC (see p. 13). And now, with the success of both, they are introducing the 420 Sports Coupe to the lineup. This trio provides a nice range of vessels that are definitely sporty and agile, and that are definitely well appointed yachts, just the same.

The cockpit of the 390 SC features a large opening sunroof, carpeting, an adjustable helm seat with a flip-up bolster and a unique companion seat that converts into a facing cocktail/dinette area. It also comes standard with a wet bar, a 15.4-inch LCD TV, a cockpit shower and hydraulic steering.

Below deck, you'll find a spacious open interior floor plan. The forward master stateroom is separated from the salon and galley by a privacy curtain. The head features a separate shower stall. A sofa bed and crescent-shaped dinette that converts to a berth provide ample sleeping space in the salon. Six-foot-six-inch headroom and ample vertical opening portlights create a roomy atmosphere.

Similar in appearance to its smaller sister model, the 420 SC boasts an entirely new interior layout below deck and upgraded amenities throughout. Like the other SCs, it features a walk-through windshield and a plethora of features at the helm. But when you go down below deck, you find an innovative new floorplan.

Already roomy, the more than seven feet of headroom at the bottom of the cabin steps makes for an extra airy feeling. Upon entering the galley, guests will find a comfortable crescent-shaped dinette that is the perfect place to watch the standard



Available with:

**VOLVO  
PENTA  
IPS  
GAS OR  
DIESEL**



<b>Length:</b>	<b>40'2"</b>
<b>Beam:</b>	<b>13'0"</b>
<b>Draft (IPS):</b>	<b>45"</b>
<b>Fuel Capacity:</b>	<b>300 gals</b>
<b>Water Capacity:</b>	<b>75 gals</b>

## 390 Sports Coupe

26-inch flat screen TV. Aft of the fully stocked galley, the main head offers full standing headroom with a separate stand-up shower stall.

Moving forward to the master stateroom, everyone will appreciate the Ocean-Air hatch that provides a nice bit of fresh air on a cool night or a hot day. The two large hanging lockers on both the port and starboard sides, in addition to storage underneath the large queen size berth, maximize this space. The same holds true for the secondary stateroom, which has

Available with a wide variety of gas or diesel Volvo Penta IPS engines, these yachts can also be equipped with traditional V-drive engines. Whichever you choose, you'll be impressed by the performance. They propel quickly onto plane and deliver excellent fuel efficiency, even when cruising at 30 mph. Crisp turning and low drag make handling a breeze.

So, it's not just good looks, lots of space, amenities galore and lots of options for entertaining that make these vessels to appealing. They may be a bit smaller than the 520 SC, but these

**“ This trio provides a nice range of vessels that are definitely sporty and agile, and that are definitely well appointed yachts, just the same ”**

a head area that allows for simultaneous use of the head and vanity areas and includes a porthole behind the sink. It also features a split bunk that can convert to a full-size berth with the simple addition of a filler cushion.

models offer the luxurious appointments of a yacht and the versatility of a coupe at a value that's hard to beat.

Available with:

**VOLVO  
PENTA  
IPS  
GAS OR  
DIESEL**

