

GEAR! 30 Greats for 30 Bucks p72

BOATING

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BOATING'S BEST NEW INNOVATIONS

8 TRENDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

PLUS

- Troubleshoot Before You Buy p60
- Protect Your Fuel System p34
- Scratch-Proof Your Boat p36

Chaparral
246 SSI

TESTS

- ▶ NAUTICSTAR 2500XS
- ▶ PRINCECRAFT SE 207
- ▶ HYDRA-SPORTS 3600VX
- ▶ CRUISERS YACHTS 48 CANTIUS
- ▶ YAMAHA WAVERUNNER VXR

Cruisers Yachts 48 Cantius



EXPRESS CRUISERS or coupes can be either too stuffy and confining or not protected enough. But when I stepped through the cockpit aboard the Cruisers Yachts 48 Cantius on a rotten rainy day, a sliding glass wall gave entry to the completely enclosed helm deck area, and instead of feeling the effect of being in a plastic tent, I was invited to a panoramic view of the waters around me. In a few paces over the Wenge wood sole, I was at the helm,

EXTRA POINT

The 48 Cantius' enormous swim platform offers a patio on the water, adding still another spacious get-together area and extending the option of adding hydraulic lifts, making part of the platform an ideal launch pad for tender or PWC.

enjoying a spectacularly commanding view. A glance downward revealed a wide-open overlook to the lower salon, with galley, dual dinette tables and dinette lounge/hide-a-bed below. I turned aft and could easily make eye contact with imagined guests on the transom lounge. But for the rain on the glossy finish, I could visualize hands curled 'round frosty refreshments or steaming coffee.

Every gathering area was open to every other, yet each offered its own intimacy — exactly the effect intended in the 48 Cantius' blueprint.

Incredible entertaining options abound on the 48 Cantius, thanks to the open layout. But would it feel confining on a summer day? Not with the cabin door slid aside, making two-thirds of the width of the helm deck open to the cockpit. Also, the 71-inch sunroof retracts 31 inches, and a windshield door window opens to improve ventilation and the airy feel. So it's 110 degrees outside, with 99 percent humidity? Close all the doors and sunroof and turn on the air-conditioner and, thanks to the glass all around, I could

still be a participant in the outside environment, not an observer from on high.

Rich furnishings of wenge wood including the end table and cocktail table in the helm deck and similar accents below were complimented by light tones in upholsteries and fabrics.

For comfortable cruising, the head and glass-front shower were large, not claustrophobic, and our

tester also featured a front-loading washer/dryer combo, giving long-range runs homelike comforts.

The 48 Cantius is named for Cantius Stock, founder of Cruisers Yachts' parent company, and is a fitting tribute to a Midwestern work ethic and the quest for perfection that Stock instilled in the Cruisers Yachts heritage.

— *Randy Vance*

High Points

- ▶ The engine compartment is enormous and capable of storing tons of gear without interfering with engine-systems access.
- ▶ No need for canvas and curtains with this all-around glass design.
- ▶ Port or starboard aft entry adds convenience for boarding.

Low Points

- ▶ The ladder access to the engine room was too steep and needed handrails for easier egress.
- ▶ Handrails along walkway to the bow needed lengthening for secure egress. Cruisers Yachts had them extended immediately.

Toughest Competitor

Sea Ray's 470 Sundancer (\$950,446 base with comparable Zeus power) offers the sunroof in the hardtop but not the sliding glass helm-deck surround. Its comparable spaciousness gives good long-range potential.

▶ LOA: 46'6" ▶ Beam: 14'6" ▶ Draft (max.): 42" ▶ Displacement (lb., approx.): 32,000 ▶ Transom Deadrise: 14 degrees ▶ Bridge Clearance: 12'6" ▶ Max. Cabin Headroom (when applicable): 6'6" ▶ Fuel Capacity: 400 gal. ▶ Max. Horsepower: 870 ▶ Available Power: Twin Volvo Penta IPS 500 or 600

▶ **Price: \$916,820** (with Volvo Penta IPS 500)

BOATING Certified Test Results

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY				OPERATION sound level
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	
1000	3.78	4.35	1.60	2.36	2.72	6804	7830	61
1500	4.91	5.65	6.30	0.78	0.90	2244	2583	64
2000	5.95	6.85	13.00	0.46	0.53	1319	1518	73
2200	7.04	8.10	17.00	0.41	0.48	1192	1372	74
2400	8.39	9.65	20.00	0.42	0.48	1208	1390	74
2600	9.78	11.25	23.00	0.43	0.49	1224	1409	75
2800	11.38	13.10	25.00	0.46	0.52	1311	1509	75
3000	12.90	14.85	28.00	0.46	0.53	1327	1527	75
3200	14.21	16.35	32.00	0.44	0.51	1279	1472	76
3400	15.51	17.85	36.00	0.43	0.50	1241	1428	77
3630	16.86	19.40	44.00	0.38	0.44	1103	1270	78

MOST ECONOMICAL CRUISING SPEED

HOW WE TESTED

ENGINE: Twin Volvo Penta IPS 600, 435 hp DRIVE/PROP: T-4 bronze propsets, 22" pitch FUEL LOAD: 400 gal. WATER ON BOARD: 50 gal. PASSENGER WEIGHT: 400 lb.

Cruisers Yachts Oconto, Wisconsin; 920-834-2211; cruisersyachts.com