



Hunter 49: Solid at Sea and Devilish in the Details

When the BOTY judges sat down to trade notes on this year's crop of Full-Size Cruisers, the Hunter 49 outpaced its rivals with its sail plan and rig options, safety features, solid feel under sail, accommodations, and price.

In their discussion, the judges pointed to a number of details that made this a boat that could be enjoyed in port and, with some minor tweaks, take an owner and family a ways offshore.

Starting at the bow, BOTY judge and former sailmaker Tom Linskey was struck by the ability to have a self-tending jib, an overlapping genoa, or a combination of both with the addition of a solent stay. At the aft end, all of the judges were impressed by the split mainsheet that could be controlled either by a winch on the cabin top or with a tail that runs down the trademark Hunter overhead arch to a winch by the port helm station.

The 49's cockpit is comfortable, with twin wheels and a solid table. Ahead of that, judge Steve Callahan noted that

the companionway stairs were some of the best in the show. On deck, handrails run forward, past the mast, and 28-inch-high lifelines give a sense of security when you're moving about while under way. Below, an ingenious hanging area for wet foulies under the companionway caught the eye of judge Stacey Collins, as did ample storage under the saloon sole and the well-marked and easy-to-access through-hulls.

Below the waterline, designer Glenn Henderson and his team relied on a relatively small keel and large rudder to produce a boat that tracks well and has power when moving through the water. Moreover, the judges concluded that the boat's systems and construction are well thought out and thorough, making the boat, at just under \$400,000, a value for the buyer.

M.P.

"I was just so impressed with the sailhandling and the rig options. The general quality of the build is a cut above."

—TOM LINSKEY



Corian counters, solid woodwork, and such finishing touches as a flat-screen entertainment center set the 49 off as the queen of the Hunter fleet.

Winning Details

- ◆ Best-of-show mainsail sheeting
- ◆ Value for the price
- ◆ Solid feel under sail

BOAT OF THE YEAR SPECS

BOAT BUILDER	LOA	Beam	Displacement*	D/L	Price†	Website Phone
	LWL	Sail Area ††	Draft	SA/D		
SMALL CRUISERS						
Alerion Express 33	33' 0"	9' 3"	8,000 lb.	190	\$290,000	www.alerionexpress.net
Pearson Composites	26' 7"	490 sq. ft.	5' 3"	19.6		(401) 683-9450
Delphia 33	32' 9"	11' 5"	10,785 lb.	183	\$145,000	www.delphiayachtsusa.com
Delphia Yachts	31' 3"	542 sq. ft.	5' 0"	17.8		(401) 268-5141
Etap 28s	29' 5"	11' 5"	8,157 lb.	171	\$140,000	www.etap-usa.com
Etap Yachting	27' 8"	379 sq. ft.	3' 7"/5' 8"	15.0		(908) 918-1886
Hunter 36	35' 6"	12' 0"	13,900 lb.	203	\$155,000	www.huntermarine.com
Hunter Marine Corp	31' 3"	632 sq. ft.	4' 11"	17.5		(386) 462-3630
Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 36i	35' 11"	11' 9"	12,566 lb.	167	\$170,000	www.jeanneauamerica.com
Jeanneau	32' 3"	571 sq. ft.	4' 10"/6' 4"	16.9		(443) 277-9608
Najad 355	35' 9"	11' 2"	13,668 lb.	217	\$340,000	www.najad.com
Najaduarvet	30' 5"	646 sq. ft.	6' 3"	18.1		(401) 846-8406
MIDSIZE CRUISERS						
Beneteau 40	39' 10"	12' 10"	18,210 lb.	207	\$180,000	www.beneteauusa.com
Beneteau	34' 0"	680 sq. ft.	6' 3"/5' 1"	15.7		(843) 629-5307
Dufour 425	42' 4"	13' 8"	18,700 lb.	167	\$190,000	www.dufouryachts.com
Dufour Yachts	36' 10"	722 sq. ft.	5' 9"/6' 11"	16.4		(410) 757-9401
Grand Soleil 40	40' 8"	12' 8"	16,060 lb.	126	\$275,000	www.mareblu.net
Cantiere Del Pardo	38' 6"	812 sq. ft.	7' 1"/7' 10"	20.4		(410) 757-9401
Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 42i	42' 2"	13' 7"	18,541 lb.	150	\$350,000	www.jeanneauamerica.com
Jeanneau	38' 1"	749 sq. ft.	7' 0"/5' 3"	17.1		(443) 277-9608
Sabre Spirit	36' 8"	10' 5"	11,000 lb.	216	\$240,000	www.sabreyachts.com
Sabre Yachts	28' 4"	669 sq. ft.	6' 7"/5' 0"	21.7		(207) 655-3831
MIDSIZE LUXURY CRUISERS						
J/122	40' 0"	11' 11"	14,990 lb.	162	\$450,000	www.jboats.com
J-Europe	34' 7"	865 sq. ft.	7' 2"	22.8		(401) 846-8410
Tartan 4300	43' 1"	13' 7"	21,800 lb.	180	\$450,000	www.tartanyachts.com
Tartan Yachts	37' 10"	994 sq. ft.	8' 3"/5' 10"	20.4		(440) 357-3111
FULL-SIZE CRUISERS						
Finn Gulf 46	46' 0"	13' 7"	25,000 lb.	180	\$690,000	www.finnulf.com
Finn Gulf Yachts	39' 7"	1,096 sq. ft.	8' 0"/7' 0"	20.5		(860) 536-7776
Hunter 49	49' 11"	14' 9"	32,813 lb.	174	\$319,000	www.huntermarine.com
Hunter Marine	43' 10"	1,014 sq. ft.	5' 6"/7' 0"	15.8		(386) 462-3077
Island Packet 465	48' 9"	14' 4"	34,500 lb.	275	\$680,000	www.ipy.com
Island Packet Yachts	38' 3"	952 sq. ft.	5' 0"	14.4		(727) 535-6431
Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 45 DS	45' 1"	14' 4"	22,932 lb.	193	\$325,000	www.jeanneauamerica.com
Jeanneau	37' 7"	850 sq. ft.	6' 8"/5' 4"	16.8		(443) 277-9608
UNLIMITED CRUISERS						
Hood Expedition 55	55' 9"	17' 7"	52,000 lb.	181	\$2,200,000	www.portsmouthmarine.com
Portsmouth Marine	50' 5"	1,630 sq. ft.	6' 3"-12' 0"	18.7		(401) 639-8739
Hylas 70	69' 8"	18' 0"	75,190 lb.	144	\$2,100,000	www.hylasyachtsusa.com
Hylas Yachts Inc.	61' 7"	2,147 sq. ft.	9' 1"/8' 2"	19.3		(781) 631-9499
Morris 45	45' 4"	13' 3"	23,974 lb.	160	\$1,100,000	www.morrisyachts.com
Morris Yachts	40' 7"	1,046 sq. ft.	7' 0"	20.1		(207) 594-6054
CRUISING MULTIHULLS						
Admiral 40	39' 11"	24' 0"	18,739 lb.	164	\$425,000	www.admiralyachts.co.za
Admiral Yacht Mfg.	37' 1"	804 sq. ft.	3' 9"	18.2		+64-27-21-577-3400
Catana 50	50' 0"	25' 11"	36,383 lb.	136	\$1,425,000	www.catana.net
Catana	49' 3"	1,417 sq. ft.	3' 11"/9' 8"	20.6		(215) 508-2704
Dean 441	43' 8"	23' 7"	26,455 lb.	149	\$520,000	www.deancatamarans.com
Dean Catamarans	43' 0"	912 sq. ft.	3' 7"	16.4		(215) 508-2704
Orana 44	43' 0"	24' 1"	17,640 lb.	109	\$540,000	www.fontaine-pajot.com
Fontaine Pajot	41' 8"	890 sq. ft.	3' 11"	21.0		+33-546357040

* Displacement values are for light ship; D/L = (D/2,240)/(LWL/100)³. † Prices in this chart are quoted by the builder for the boat as sailed, delivery to the U.S. East Coast. They reflect the value of foreign currencies as of October 2007. Actual purchase prices will vary. †† Sail Area = 100% foretriangle; SA/D = SA/(D/64)².