



CENTERS

Engine makers have come up with outboard engines that are more user- and environment-friendly and more powerful, giving boat builders the means to respond with bigger and stronger center consoles for any occasion. With bow thrusters, joysticks and gyros added to the mix, the boats have become more comfortable and versatile, many of them catering to everything from serious fishing and diving to island hopping and fun-filled days. *Marilyn DeMartini* hops on board to report back on what packs the most punch.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD STEINBERGER

>> DETAILS

LOA: 42' 5"
 Beam: 12' 7"
 Draft: 38"
 Engines: 3 x Mercury Verado 350
 Top speed: 50mph
 Cruising speed: 40mph
 Price: from \$730,000
 w: azimuth yachts.com



AZIMUT VERVE 40

Azimut took no shortcuts in styling its 40ft Verve, an ideal day cruiser or weekender designed for entertaining, not fishing. Luxuries abound, from the automotive-inspired, all-digital helm to an optional wine cooler in the cockpit's mobile bar. There's upholstered bow seating and sunpads, a shaded aft deck and cockpit couches that handily slide into a C-shape lounge.

In addition to the sizable private cabin, head, shower and full galley below, there is a dinette that can convert into an additional bed.

While not designed as a performance boat, the Verve can top 50mph with triple Mercury 350 Verados. That was not to be on the day I went out, but while negotiating five- to seven-foot rollers, I learned to appreciate the Verve's Seakeeper gyro and well-placed grab handles.

OF ATTENTION

Whether you're into serious fishing, diving, island-hopping or just feeling the wind through your hair, there's a center console to suit

>> DETAILS

LOA: 42'
 Beam: 11' 11"
 Draft: 24"
 Engines: 4 x Mercury Racing Verado 400R
 Top speed: 83mph
 Cruising speed: 55mph
 Price: from \$630,000
 w: cigarette racing.com



CIGARETTE 42 GTO RESERVE

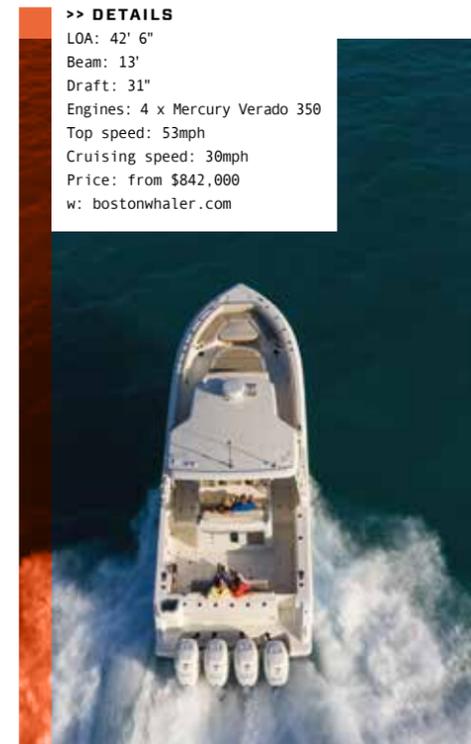
Since the launch of its first fishing center console a decade ago, this icon of performance has refined its concept for recreational luxury, with or without rod holders. This year's Cigarette is an upgraded 42ft GTO walkaround, oozing style and power. Along with three helm chairs, guest seats include benches aft that slide together to form a huge sun lounger. Below, a cabin, stand-up head and mini galley offer comfort to match the power of four Mercury Racing Verado 400R engines.

>> DETAILS

LOA: 42' 6"
 Beam: 13'
 Draft: 31"
 Engines: 4 x Mercury Verado 350
 Top speed: 53mph
 Cruising speed: 30mph
 Price: from \$842,000
 w: bostonwhaler.com

BOSTON WHALER 420 OUTRAGE

The Outrage flagship is perfect for taking family and friends along and, powered by four Mercury Verado 350s, it gets to the best spots early. Fishermen will get good use out of rod holders, storage and two live wells; they can get even more fishing room by flipping up the back bench. The fresh catch can be prepped and cooked on the grill. The convertible helm seat, which accommodates six, also serves as guest seating for a meal in the shaded cockpit, and the spacious bow lounge is perfect for relaxing afterwards. For people who want a little less boat, the 380 Outrage debuted in 2018.



EVERGLADES 435

The newest and largest Everglades, the 435 is a big fishing machine capable of fancy moves. Its hull comes with a lifetime warranty and the builder boasts of a stable ride in the heaviest of water. Despite its dimensions, the 435 does handle like a much smaller boat. The aluminum structure, built in-house, includes ladders to an optional tower that folds down for transport or low bridges. Over 300 gallons of live wells, fish boxes and bait freezers, a 570 gallon fuel tank and 11 stainless gunwale flush-mounted rod holders contribute to the boat's fishing cred.

Behind the cockpit seats, a workstation with sink, refrigerator, cutting board, tackle drawers and 110 quart sliding Yeti Cooler is functional, as is the no-frills air-conditioned cabin with a queen berth or couch, galley, head and shower.

>> DETAILS

LOA: 45'
Beam: 12'
Draft: 28"
Engines: 4 x
Yamaha F350C
Top speed:
59.7mph
Cruising
speed: 38.3mph
Price: from
\$850,555
w: everglades
boats.com



FOUNTAIN/ ICONIC 39 NX

Speed guru Reggie Fountain, the icon himself, has returned to the yard, working on a new generation of Fountains with parent company Iconic Marine Group. Unveiled at the Miami Boat Show in February, the 39 NX is based on a hugely successful tournament fishing boat, Reggie Fountain's 38ft hull. Deeper, longer and beamier, the 39 NX also has a hardtop. With three Mercury 350 Verados, a full windshield and upgraded upholstery, it's still built for fishing, but, says Fountain, it's more "plush" and more versatile.

>> DETAILS

LOA: 39'
Beam: 11' 3"
Draft: 24"
Engines: 3 x
Mercury Verado
350
Top speed: 70mph
Cruising speed:
28.2mph
Price: from
\$553,847
w: iconic
marinegroup.com



INSETTA BOATWORKS 45

>> DETAILS

LOA: 45'
Beam: 11' 8"
Draft: 27"
Engines: 4 x
Yamaha V6 300
Top speed:
65mph
Cruising
speed: 38mph
Price: from
\$700,000
w: insetta.com

Catamarans have a reputation for stability and speed, but the Insetta 45's asymmetrical sponsons amplify those traits with additional depth in the hull and a narrower tunnel. The deck is incredibly roomy, making the boat an ideal chase boat during the 2017 America's Cup finals in Bermuda. Set up for fishing with plenty of wells and rod holders, but geared to be a sports cruiser or tender, the Insetta is equipped with either twin or quad Yamaha V6 300s or Seven Marine 627hp engine packages – or even a Yanmar diesel for extra fuel efficiency. Another option is a tuna tower.



>> DETAILS

LOA: 52' 11"
Beam: 13'
Draft: 24"
Engines: 4 x
Yamaha 350C
Top speed:
53mph
Cruising
speed: 38mph
Price: from
\$1.6m (\$2m+
with 4 x Seven
Marine 627
engines)
w: hcbyachts.
com

HCB SUEÑOS

HydraSport has recently become HCB, focusing on higher quality finishes and customization in its already robust center consoles. The 53ft Sueños sport model has been tweaked by adding stainless steel clasps on fully customized cabinetry, recessed speakers, a wooden helm pod, teak railing and suspension Liebroc seats. The roof's retractable shade replaces rod holders so fishing is downplayed.

The cabin has hardwood floors, a queen berth with a private head, glass shower door and full galley. Quad Yamaha 350 engines are currently standard and there is an upgrade to Seven Marine engines at a hefty premium.

Loaded with 23 people for a sea trial, the Sueños easily cuts through thick chop with no bouncing and I was able to make sharp turns, the hull feeling like a racecar on rails. The next installment is the 65ft Estrella, due out soon.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD STEINBERGER PHOTOGRAPHY

MTI-V 42

After building and racing catamarans, Randy Scism threw himself into the performance center console market and created the MTI-V, a patented Kevlar-reinforced twin-keel hull.

MTI added rows of bolster helm seats, ergonomic sun loungers and a carbon fiber glass dash. In the cabin a couch folds into a berth and the wet head's toilet becomes a shower seat. The newest model is 57ft but a 42 with four Mercury Racing 400Rs recently proved its mettle in the Med as a superyacht tender.

>> DETAILS

LOA: 42'
Beam: 11' 6"
Draft: 30"
Engines: 4 x
Mercury Racing
400R
Top speed:
80mph
Cruising
speed: 50mph
Price: from
\$750,000
w: marine
technologyinc.
com



>> DETAILS

LOA: 42' 10"
Beam: 10' 11"
Draft: 36"
Engines: 4 x
Mercury Racing
400R
Top speed:
80mph-plus
Cruising
speed:
50-65mph
Price: from
\$525,000
w: mysticpower
boats.com

MYSTIC POWERBOATS M4200

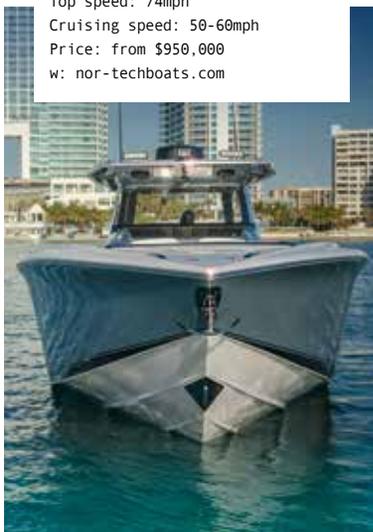
John Cosker is another American catamaran racer and custom builder who shifted gears to beefy center consoles. Cosker's most recent model is a deep V, with 38in freeboard, so "you feel like you are in the boat, not on it," he says. The M4200 is carbon fiber reinforced epoxy, built with a reverse chine for a dry ride in the roughest conditions. Gunnel wind deflectors, full windshield and large hardtop protect the helm and custom upholstered seats; the cabin is roomy and comfy when you want to duck below for a rest – or for the rest of the evening.

NOR-TECH 450 SPORT

The 450 Sport is quick and stylish. The tech below is a stepped, 12ft beam hull, while the tech above includes dual 22in Garmin screens, Mercury Zero Effort controls and electrically controlled side windows. Smoked or clear glass gives privacy or natural light to the spacious cabin, with double berth and wet head. A laminated glass windshield surrounds the helm's comfortable bolster seats and the carbon fiber dash has lots of storage for accessories. The bow's U-seating offers walkaround space while the sun loungers elevate the legs for added comfort. The new custom 452 Super Fish, with five Mercury Racing 400R outboards, is built for the avid fisherman.

>> DETAILS

LOA: 45'
Beam: 12'
Draft: 34"
Engines: 4 x Mercury Racing 400R
Top speed: 74mph
Cruising speed: 50-60mph
Price: from \$950,000
w: nor-techboats.com



SCOUT 380 LXF

It's the details that make this center console stand out, such as heated bolster helm seats, a three-screen Garmin dash, teak floor and easily convertible spaces. The seat behind the console flips up then slides under a sink and covered grill/cutting board combination to create a convenient work station, while the rear bench pulls down to seat more people or flips up for fishing space. Below is a full cabin and galley with retractable table. Choice of power includes triple or quad Mercury or Yamaha 350s.

>> DETAILS

LOA: 38' 6"
Beam: 12' 1"
Draft: 27"
Engines: 3 x Mercury 350
Top speed: 57.1mph
Cruising speed: 20mph
Price: from \$647,780
w: scoutboats.com



GULFSTREAM YACHTS 52

>> DETAILS

LOA: 52'
Beam: 15'
Draft: 30"
Engines: 4 x Seven Marine 627
Top speed: 67mph-plus
Cruising speed: 40-45mph
Price: from \$1.8 million
w: gulfstreamyachts.com

Experienced boater Hunt James teamed up with architects Michael Peters and Ward Setzer to create the perfect 52ft center console/yacht. At the Palm Beach Boat Show, the Gulfstream stood out with its four Seven Marine 627 outboards, metallic gray finish and angular enclosed cabin in stark contrast to the sloping lines of nearby open center consoles. The cabin can be heated or air-conditioned; below is a queen berth, stand-up head and shower and a table that converts to a berth. The deep open bow, non-skid wide gunnels, live wells, rod holders and fish boxes provide lots of fishing advantages. Hulls two and three are reportedly under way as yacht tenders.

>> DETAILS

LOA: 45'
Beam: 13' 7"
Draft: 38"
Engines: 2 x Volvo Penta IPS 600
Top speed: 43.7mph
Cruising speed: 38mph
Price: from \$780,432
w: alenyacht.com



NOT INTO OUTBOARDS?

ALEN YACHT 45

Alen Yacht set out to create walkaround boats, ranging from 45 to 70ft, that exude elegance. Apart from the customized veneer, upgraded Solartex upholstery, teak decking, recessed TV and tasteful paint, Alen is big on practical details that increase comfort. Soft cushions are flat and flush with the boat lines, custom stainless gleams and a teak table folds out between forward and aft-facing couches for cocktails or a full dinner (prepared on the deck wet bar to give space below for the full beam master and wet head). This V-bottom means it's not considered a performance boat, but it is still more fun to drive this head-turner than to relax on the ample bow sunpad.

