

BOATS

2016 FISHING BOAT BUYERS GUIDE: GRADY-WHITE BOATS FREEDOM 275

GRADY-WHITE DID IT THIS YEAR BY TAKING ITS PROVEN AND POPULAR FREEDOM 275 DUAL CONSOLE AND GIVING IT A MAKEOVER.

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Quick specs. LOA: 26'11" Beam: 8'6" Fuel Capacity: 184 gal. Max HP: 500

Courtesy of Grady-White

Not only is Grady-White prominent among top names in the survey of those with ownership or other familiarity with its boats, it's widely experienced — leading all other brands in numbers of respondents by at least 25 percent.

There's a reason Grady, closing in on a half-century of boatbuilding under Eddie Smith family ownership, is known at virtually every fishing ground and port: It continues to impress owners and others with its attention to seaworthy design and building quality — overlaid with an appreciation for style.

Born on North Carolina's treacherous waters and inlets, Grady-White boats have earned accolades from J.D. Power and NMMA for design and construction, brand recognition and safety. Survey respondents agree.

All Grady-Whites boast the SeaV2 hull, a "continuously variable V" that steadily sharpens from transom to bow stem. The deeper V at the bow produces a softer ride; the gentler one at transom, along with wide chines, provides stability at rest and when trolling.

Take the top five survey attributes — reputation, construction, customer service, resale value and safety — put them all together, and you're describing a company well-known among boaters for building and backing rock-solid boats.

FREEDOM 275

How does one build on success? Grady-White did it this year by taking its proven and popular Freedom 275 dual console and giving it a makeover, featuring an expanded helm area and reconfigured seating to make the most of cockpit space.

Standard helm seating in the widened helm is a deluxe chair adjustable horizontally and vertically; upgrade if you wish to a plush, cushioned contoured seat with flip-up bolster. Companion seating is wider, backed by an electromechanically extendable lounge seat, on a rugged fiberglass base.

The new Freedom 275 boasts a wide, lockable console entry at port, as well as a new inward-facing wet bar featuring Corian countertops. Add an optional grill and refrigerator if you like.

Up front, port and starboard bow cushions seat six people. Aft, a patented Grady bench seat provides seating when needed, folding out of the way otherwise — likely to earn another round of applause from serious anglers who prize open fishing space above nearly all other features.

Anglers would love to fish all the time, perhaps, but families appreciate the way the Freedom 275 also pulls water toys, or the way it cruises to a beach, restaurant or other attraction. Now, it does all that in more style and comfort than ever.

MORE INFO: gradywhite.com