

Your heart stopping the first time you saw her.

Your dreams captured in a one-couple boat.

Your time aboard spent in comfort and style.

Your boat.

The Sabre 34 Hard Top Express

The new Sabre 34 Express is ideal for couples who value their space, their comfort — and their privacy. Her unique interior features a single, wide-open living area two can actually live in — with a large queen island berth and full head with shower. The galley-up arrangement further liberates space below — allowing for a generous settee and matching ottoman. Easily driven by her twin diesels at speeds exceeding 25 knots, she'll get you to your favorite destinations with daylight to spare. It's your time together. Let the Sabre 34 Express help you make the most of it.



Sabre 36 & 42 Sedan

Sabre 34, 38, 42 & 52 Hard Top Express

Sabre 47 Motoryacht

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SEA TRIAL: SABRE 34 EXPRESS

POWER CRUISING

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL WHO CRUISE UNDER POWER

GOLDILOCKS FACTOR



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Hard Top Express
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Sabre 34 Express

BY WALT STEARNS

Some boats possess what I call the “Goldilocks Factor.” Neither too big nor too small, they are just right for a couple looking to entertain a few friends on a day trip or to spend a private weekend on the water.

The new 34-foot Hard Top Express from Sabre Yachts falls solidly into this category. It is a premium product that delivers an appealing combination of timeless New England style and modern cruising practicality, along with a number of noteworthy features and design refinements that should set it apart from the fleet.

Based on market research and customer demand, Sabre knew that of the two key markets for their smallest powerboat, one would be quality-minded owners downsizing from larger, more complex boats. The other would be upscale sailors looking to make the transition to power cruising but still wanting a stylish boat with a traditional nautical flair. Sabre fully expected to win the hearts and orders of affluent baby boomers, but according to early indications, the company has also captured the interest of a group of somewhat younger buyers.

According to Sandy Cochran of Jupiter Yacht Sales in Jupiter, Florida, the largest percentage of potential buyers he’s seen so far appear to be in their mid 40s. “They like the rich, handcrafted wood and the brightwork accents in the saloon and stateroom, but the bigger attraction is the way the 34 is laid out,” he explains.

Many express cruisers in this size range attempt to shoehorn a full complement of downsized living accommodations into the bow, but the 34 follows Sabre’s “spend nights below and days above” philosophy. In support of this mission, a compact but fully equipped galley and a generously proportioned settee are placed under the enclosed hardtop to create an open, elevated social center where owners and guests can spend their cruising day in comfort while admiring the view.

A sliding backrest allows the front section of the settee to be transformed into a forward-facing passenger seat, while the skipper gets a fully adjustable Stidd helm chair. The galley area includes a recessed, electric, two-burner cooktop, a microwave, a stainless-steel sink with a drop-in cover, and a 2.2-cubic-foot refrigerator.

With the galley and primary dining and socializing area kept topside, there’s extra elbow room in the forward cabin, which feels more like a luxury-hotel room than a cramped bunkhouse. Sabre’s craftsmen make extensive use of varnished cherry woodwork to create a warm, inviting atmosphere throughout.

The open belowdecks layout provides room for a queen-size island berth forward and an additional settee lounge against the aft bulkhead, along with an



Powered by twin diesels of 310 to 380 horsepower, the 34 Express cruises easily in the mid-twenties (above). By locating the galley topside, Sabre’s designers created enough space belowdecks for a convertible settee (bottom left). The well-conceived helm station features a fully adjustable Stidd chair (right).



entertainment center, hanging locker and second refrigerator. The roomy head features a freshwater toilet and something rarely seen in an express cruiser of this size: a separate shower compartment with a circular acrylic door.

Topside and in the engine room, you will find the same premium hardware as on Sabre’s larger yachts, including standard features such as a generator and air conditioning.

With the large hatch in the saloon

floor raised, I had no problem accessing the majority of the engine and mechanical service points, and there was enough room in the tight but organized compartment for my 175-pound frame to squeeze outboard of the engines, as well.

Like other Sabre models, the 34 combines the best of traditional Maine workmanship with modern methods and materials. During construction, the

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA: 34’6”

Beam: 12’6”

Draft: 3’

Displacement: 15,850 lbs. (dry)

Fuel Capacity: 275 gals.

Fresh Water Capacity: 80 gals.

Power: Twin 315-hp Yanmars (base)

Price: \$341,700 (base boat)

Information: 207-655-3831,

www.sabreyachts.com

Divinycell-cored hull and topsides are vacuum bagged with knitted biaxial E-glass and vinyl ester resin.

The boat I sea-trialed was fitted with twin 370-hp Volvos, an upgrade from the standard 315-hp Yanmars. Bouncing

through Florida’s Jupiter Inlet on a sloppy January day, the boat had no problem maintaining a comfortable and relatively dry 20-knot speed while shouldering through a short, four-foot chop. Depending on engine selection, tops speeds of 30 to 33 knots can be expected, while the modified-V hull should provide realistic, passenger-friendly cruise speeds in the mid-20-knot range with better than one-to-one fuel consumption.

Overall, the Sabre 34 Hard Top Express is a good-looking, sweet-handling cruiser that should become a favorite with family and friends. The boat should also provide the two of you with a comfortable home for a weekend jaunt down the coast or over to the islands. ❁