



Chaparral Sunesta 236

Our First Impression

Established as one of the best in the industry, Chaparral's Sunesta 236 will take you to a world of luxury as you step aboard. At first glance, it looks more like a runabout than a deck boat with its aerodynamic appearance, so we went into our test expecting a sweet ride. We knew this was definitely a boat we wanted to get our hands on and hit the water.

Consumer Test

Attention to detail is definitely what sets this boat apart from its counterparts. When it comes to this deck boat's furniture, less is definitely more. Three different shades of tan work well with the white tones of the Sunesta. The snap-in Berber carpet also ties in nicely giving the boat an overall clean look. We weren't expecting huge amounts of furniture comfort, but we weren't disappointed. It does the job it is designed to do.

In the rear, a section of the seat can be removed for easy access to the swim platform. The bucket helm chair has a flip-up bolster with another chair opposite the helm for the first mate. The captain's chair could use an armrest to give additional throttle support.

The helm console is designed with one row of gauges across the entire dash as well as an optional Ritchie compass. The rocker switches are lit for an easy visual in the dark and are well labeled with pictures. It is designed to be user friendly with excellent ergonomics.

There is plenty of under seat storage, plus a wakeboard/ski storage area with a solid fiberglass lid with a non-skid surface. To the rear of the helm chair, you'll find a cooler under the seat that can be accessed by removing the cushion or unlocking it and sliding it out. The bow under seat storage is carpeted and the seat cushions are easy to remove. There is cooler storage in the bow, and you'll also find storage in the refreshment area and under the helm as well as trunk storage above the swim deck.

If you can't find the JVL stereo, don't be surprised. The CD player is located in the head to keep the system out of the elements. A remote is mounted on the dash control and optional remotes can be found in the bow and transom areas.

The head—located in front of the first mate's chair—has so many features, you just might want to spend an afternoon in there. The door opens to a large area that doubles as a changing room. It features a light, toilet paper holder, the main CD player and vented window. It has side vinyl padding and non-skid floor for extra safety. The room also drains overboard whenever you need to rinse out the area.

You'll find a refreshment center opposite the helm

that includes a sink with a chrome electric pump, trash-can in the storage area and a small cooler.

In addition to the optional CD remote pad, the swim platform has an optional Aquatik shower system. The three-step telescopic ladder has good handholds as well as ski eye incorporated into the handrail.

The three-piece walk-through windshield is great to extend your boating season, but an average height boater may have problems seeing over the top edge of it. The flip-up bolster on the captain's chair can assist in alleviating this problem should it arise.

Inspection Test

Excellent and outstanding are two words used frequently during the below deck inspection of the Sunesta. The modified cathedral, reversed chine hull has outstanding mold work and an excellent gel coat. The solidly constructed hull is bright and the color consistency is outstanding.

Two strakes run the full length of the boat and two are three-quarter length.

The engine compartment completely opens up for easy access. The entire system is well secured and supported. Even the wiring quality is well done as we noted a very clean undercarriage.

The clamshell head door opens with a single hinge and closes snugly. Chaparral uses stainless steel wherever it can, creating a well-built boat. The bimini is supported with a stainless steel frame and the canvas is zippered in for self-removal and replacement. The top can easily be erected and retracted with only one person.

Performance Test

There were no surprises in the performance of this boat. We expected it to perform and we weren't disappointed. It was a fun and exciting ride. With a top speed of almost 55 mph, we had a great time zipping around the lake. In the turns, the steering wheel would only go so far, so the boat definitely knows its limits, which made us feel very safe. She had great acceleration out of the hole and she banked nice and tight. If you're looking for fun, this boat is very responsive and will fill your needs.

Final Thoughts

Chaparral's Sunesta 236 definitely lived up to our expectations. Exceptional quality and excellent fit and finish work help set this boat apart from others. The elliptical bow rails and removal stern gate seat makes it a great family boat for those who want the best in the industry. You pay for the quality and will want to keep it for years to come. **900**

Chaparral

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TEST STATS

Top Speed	54.3 mph
Db-a @ Idle	83
Fuel @ 3000	9.6 gph
No. of Gates	1
Boarding Ladder	Yes

BOAT SPECS

LOA	24' 3.5"
Beam	8' 6"
Hull Design	Extended V-Plane
Dry Weight	4,450 lbs.
Load Capacity	14 People
Fuel Capacity	53 Gallons

ENGINE & PROPELLERS

Engine	Volvo Penta 5.7 DP GXi
Cylinder Type	8
Displacement/hp	350ci/320hp
Lower Unit Gear Ratio	1.96:1 DP
Propeller	F6

RPM VS. SPEED VS. FUEL VS. DB-A

750	3.6 mph	0.1 gph	83.0
1000	6.0 mph	0.1 gph	93.5
1500	8.5 mph	3.2 gph	94.5
2000	13.5 mph	6.0 gph	98.5
2500	23.3 mph	7.3 gph	103.0
3000	31.2 mph	9.6 gph	98.5
3500	37.5 mph	13.4 gph	99.0
4000	43.9 mph	17.5 gph	100.5
4500	49.5 mph	22.4 gph	104.0
5000	54.3 mph	26.6 gph	104.0

PRICES

Base Retail w/Snd. Features.....\$48,636
(Boat and Motor)

Price as Tested.....\$53,360
(Boat and Motor)

STANDARD FEATURES

Woodgrain dash, Teleflex-glass lens gauges, illuminated rocker switches, JBL compact disc sound system, flip-up bottom cushion, 36 oz. expanded vinyl, aluminum angled bottom supports, molded self bailing cockpit drainage system, extended swim platform, self bailing fiberglass innerliners, three piece clear view windshield, insulated ice chests, three-step stainless steel telescopic ladders, oversized storage lockers, transom storage trunk, dual docking lights and hi-low dinette table.

OPTIONS ON TEST BOAT

Premium package, including bow chafe plate, pull-up cleats and transom tilt switch. Convenience package that includes bow and transom stereo remote, tilt solid mahogany wheel and Ritchie compass.