
BEST OF '05
RINKER FIESTA VEE 320

TOP VALUES

You might be asking why a boat that sells for six figures made the cut here. It's because we don't equate "cheap" with a good value.

Our primary criteria are: 1) The boat's cost is below the curve set for its size and style, and 2) the model impressed us with its solid build and perhaps backs it up with a strong customer satisfaction rating. Those benchmarks actually made these pickings pretty easy

Rinker Fiesta Vee 320

We walked through this 32-foot cruiser with its extra-wide beam of 11'4" and, finding everything first-class in the cockpit, stepped down into the cabin. There, with 6.5 feet of headroom, we moseyed up into the forward berth, so wide you can sleep beamwise. We then moved past the galley and the big, roomy head into the mid-berth — an honest two-person sleeping quarter with padding and upholstery all around. We figured something just under $200,000 would be a good deal. But then we saw a number around $150,000 — this for a cruiser with twin Volvo Ocean Series 5.0-liter engines.



The Fiesta Vee 320 is a true vacation boat, with pedestal steps that lead down into a full salon, which is separated from the forward and mid-berths. Belowdecks are luxuries like a retractable TV and stainless-steel safe, and on deck are an aluminum radar arch, GPS and a creative pop-up blender. We could go on, but the point here is that everything comes standard, whereas many companies offer those items for a heavy upcharge — on top of a higher base price.

Rinker caters to families, building all boats (even the smallest bowriders) with safety as a top priority. Most are quick to plane, but we were surprised when this 12,360-pounder got up and on plane in barely seven seconds. And, because it cruises optimally at 30 mph and 3,700 rpm, owners will save on another budget item: fuel.

EXTRA POINTS

Rinker ranks second in the latest J.D. Power survey of express cruiser owners. • **Helm station is so commanding that drivers step up from the cockpit to man the controls.** • Standard canvas enclosure makes it possible for two more people to overnight.