JUST CRUISIN' Rinker Serves Up a Sophisticated New 246 Cuddy



Do you want 100 percent sun or the ability to get out of the elements? For some boat-buying families, that's a burning question. But in the Rinker lineup, you can have it either way.

For families in the Southern states, the completely open bow of the Captiva 246 offers passenger space both fore and aft so everyone can enjoy the sun. Those living in the North who like to have sun *and* shelter will find the new Captiva 246 Cuddy is for them.

Both Rinker models feature the same hull and an overall length of 26 feet, 2 inches, including swimstep. The 8 1/2-foot beam affords maximum width and interior space from gunwale to gunwale.

STYLE TO BURN

For most boaters, cuddies conjure images of boats with deep cockpits designed to be functional rather than stylish. But Rinker changes that concept. The Captiva 246 Cuddy's sexy lines and well-upholstered cockpit balance function and beauty.

Rinker lends its cuddy a sophisticated look by not going too thick with the deck and by keeping the sheerline level from bow to stern. This gives the stern a soft, curving drop to the integrated swim platform, accentuating the continuously flowing line from bow to aft.

A curving sunpad, which converts into a chaise lounge, complements the wrapping, almost U-shaped stern seat. Forward, a sweptback windshield enhances the boat's looks. Notable optional equipment includes a cockpit cover and Corsa Quick and Quiet through-hull exhaust.

Rinker designed the cuddy to be more than a place for children and teens to get out of the sun. The interior actually invites those over 5 feet tall to enter. The folding door and top section to the hatch flip open to create a wide and tall entrance, ideal for adults. The step down provides additional headroom, creating the cabin-like experience of a small cruiser. And a sink in the cockpit is handy when overnighting.



■ **The cabin on the Captiva 246 sports plenty of lounging room and an elegant, airy quality not often found on cuddies.**

FAST MOVES

Though the 246's overall length is 26 feet, 2 inches, its waterline length is shorter. A short hull is more maneuverable, as we experienced in many turns on the Intracoastal Waterway in Sarasota, Florida. Acceleration for this 5000-pound boat is better than expected. The 300 hp MerCruiser 350 Mag throttled up to 50.4 mph, and the twin propellers of the Bravo 3 drive got the Captiva 246 Cuddy to 30 mph in an average of 9 seconds with its 26-inch stainless prop set. Standard power is a 260 hp 5.0L MerCruiser or 270 hp 5.0L Volvo Penta.

If you want to play in the sun, stay overnight, and have fun at the wheel, this cuddy can capture all your dreams and much more.

Zenon L. Bilas

SPECIFICATIONS

RINKER CAPTIVA 246 CUDDY

Base Price	$42,233
Price as Tested	$47,194
Length	26' 2"
Beam	8' 6"
Weight	5050 lbs.
Fuel Capacity	75 gals.
Maximum Horsepower	375
Engine as Tested	MerCruiser 350 Mag/Bravo 3
Propeller	Bravo 3 26" stainless prop set

Rinker Boats, Dept. TBM, 300 W. Chicago St., Syracuse, IN 46567; 574/457-5731; *rinkerboats.com*

TEST RESULTS

Engine (rpm)	Speed (mph)	Fuel (gph)	(mpg)	Range[1] (miles)
1000	5.2	1.5	3.5	236
1500	7.1	2.6	2.7	182
2000	8.2	4.1	2.0	135
2500	9.9	7.0	1.4	94
3000	24.3	8.1	3.0	202
3500[2]	**30.5**	**10.1**	**3.0**	**202**
4000	35.9	12.7	2.8	189
4500	42.3	17.8	2.4	162
5000	48.3	22.2	2.2	148
5150 (WOT)	50.4	22.8	2.2	148

[1] *Based on 90% fuel capacity*
[2] *Optimum cruising speed*