

Monterey 340SY

Big and beautiful

By Brad Roberts



It's a typical hot humid mid-August evening in Florida and I'm sitting in the Fort Lauderdale airport waiting to board my flight home from Monterey's Media Days in Boca Raton Florida. I've just spent two days at the eighty year young, but still stunningly beautiful, Waldorf Astoria Boca Raton Resort and Club, feverishly taking notes and snapping photos as Monterey Boats unveiled to their dealers and the media, four all-new models for 2014.

After the gala event last night, I'd awoken this morning to teeming rain and fog so thick that I couldn't see the Atlantic Ocean from my 18th story hotel room window. Not exactly ideal boat testing weather, I mused.

After a morning of running the all new 18 and 19 foot Montura runabouts (fun!), and the new 217 Blackfin crossover model (hot!) up and down the ICW, it was there, in the early afternoon shadows of the hotels' light pink tower that is an area landmark, that I had the chance to water test the second largest yacht in the Monterey fleet – the 340 Sport Yacht.

As I stepped aboard the 340's swim platform, I made a mental note that it's nicely positioned off the water. High enough that the wake from a passing boat won't constantly have it soaked, but low enough to sit on and dangle your feet in the water while lazing at anchor. There's a three step reboarding ladder under a hatch cover in the centre of the platform. Several dealers joined me and our Captain eased us off the floating dock, the Volvo joystick system effortlessly dealing with both the onshore wind and the ICW's strong current.

I asked the Captain if we could possibly do a real test and take the 340SY out into the Ocean. So we headed east, out through the cut with a sign that read "Local knowledge required for safe passage", and soon we were in the Atlantic. The morning storm had left the water all riled up and our Captain rolled the 340SY's fourteen thousand plus pound hull through the breakers and beyond the shallow sandbars. Both dealers and myself were impressed by the handling and the solid sound the hull made as we came down from the crest of each wave. Monterey's 340 features a high freeboard that carries all the way forward so even in six foot swells we never came close to taking green over the bow. A nice side benefit of this design is found both on deck, in the nearly horizontal sunpad, and below in the cabin that boasts 6' 4" of headroom under an easy to keep clean no-sag fiberglass headliner.

As the first dealer took the helm, I started to make notes. The entry from the swim platform is to port, allowing for Monterey's exclusive Sun Island seating area to starboard. This area features a flip fold seatback that when it is flipped all the way to the bow creates a rather large sunpad. Lift it up one notch and you now have a reclining seatback allowing you to watch your kids swim or enjoy the view of the anchorage. Flip it all the way to the stern and it creates the rear bench seat portion of the c-shaped cockpit sofa. Opposite this lounging area with plenty of space for the entire family, is a wet bar complete with fresh water, sink, counter top and a solid stainless-steel grab bar (that I



A Monterey exclusive, the SunIsland seating is convertible from a full sunpad, to an aft facing recliner, to a forward facing sofa in the euro-styled cockpit.

The cabin features over six feet of headroom and an open spacious design that works for entertaining down below.

The helm is wonderfully laid out and the Monterey designers didn't forget to include two appropriately placed cupholders.



The 340's galley features a large solid surface counter top, stainless fridge and sink, and plenty of storage space.



The dual helm seat is a highlight of the 340 with independent flip up bolsters and arm rests for both Captain and Co-Captain.

used a few times in the swells!). Overhead the hardtop provides both good looks and shade, as well as a secure place to hang the full camper canvas from.

Forward of the wet bar is a sunlounger seat. It faces aft, with a seatback reclined about 45 degrees, and a short seat base with a funny angled corner – it's fine for outstretched legs, but not great for sitting on while cruising, in part due to the low seat back on the port side. There's room for one adult, perhaps with a child but that's it. Honestly, it's the only thing I personally don't like about this boat (my wife may disagree), but it is more than made up for by an ingenious double wide helm seat.

The helm seat features two separate seats each with their own flip up bolster (so the captain can ride up while the co-captain can be full seated for example), and flip down armrests on both sides of each chair. It's equally comfortable in either seat, and in either position. This helm seat design makes it fun, comfortable and safe to have your wife, son or daughter sitting right beside you for hours of open water exploring. The seat slides but doesn't swivel to face the cockpit sofa area. There are three moulded-in fiberglass steps up to the bow to the right of the sliding door to the cabin, but there are also walkways up either side as well. The helm itself is well designed with all the expected equipment arranged in logical fashion, and there's room to add accessories.

The cabin is very spacious and bright, trimmed in your choice of three interior colour schemes, and featuring a synthetic teak floor. To port lies a large head with sink and shower with that same high headroom! The port side galley features a large solid surface counter top area with stove, microwave, stainless-steel sink and under-counter fridge, and plenty of storage behind cupboard doors. The forward island v-berth is unique. The portion of the mattress where your feet would go when lying down, folds down during the day to create the seatback for a couch in front of the foot of the bed. This creates an extra couple of feet of useable space in the cabin area. Together with the large starboard side couch and large teak table, the two couches create a truly useable entertaining area. Flipped up, it forms the foot area of the queen bed, and perhaps underneath on the sofa, a bed for a small child. The aft cabin is open almost the entire beam width to the main cabin, and features great headroom and legroom space when arranged as a sofa area, along with a flatscreen TV. Privacy for both sleeping areas is via a pull across curtain.

The 340's euro-styled cockpit features plenty of space for everyone and their legs in the c-shaped lounge area.

By now it was my turn to take the helm, and I'll admit I felt a bit of friendly pressure from the dealers to show them what the 340 could do. Situated behind the wheel, as I looked around and set up for a high speed run, I felt immediately at home. Everything was where it logically should be, easily visible and within reach – that's especially important as I bobbed around like a cork in the large swells.

I opened up the Volvo engines and the 340SY jumped up onto plane quickly and confidently. I found a sweet spot and was able to get a good run in riding in the troughs, but given the conditions couldn't reach a top speed safely. The 340 cornered into the waves entirely predictably, and was also a joy when running with the swells. This is a big boat that you and your passengers will feel entirely comfortable in out on the big water. Power options include either Mercury or Volvo twin engines up to 430hp. I would highly recommend the optional joystick not only for personal use, but also to increase your resale value when the time comes to move up. Typical cruising numbers would range around 13.5 to 15 gallons per hour fuel usage at between 32 and 35 mph; with a top speed of 45-47mph.

As our Captain ran into the cut along with the incoming tide, I sat back and enjoyed the 340's cockpit area, the comfortable seating and the soft ride this proven seventeen degree deadrise hull offers.

At home in either fresh or salt water environments, the Monterey 340SY is a cruiser designed for either a family, or two couples to cruise in luxurious comfort with plenty of creature comforts and space to enjoy each other's company without being in each other's way. ⚓

SPECIFICATIONS	
Length	35' 3" / 10.7 m
Beam	11' 3" / 3.01 m
Weight	14,700 lbs / 6,668 kg
Fuel capacity	210 gals / 795 L
Draft	40" / 1.01 m
Deadrise	17 degrees
Fresh Water	42 gals / 159 L
Waste Storage	28 gals / 106 L
Max HP	Twin 430s

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