

**Trailerable cruisers** have long occupied a special place in the hearts of Canadian boaters. They offer that magical combination of being spacious enough to handle vacations of a week or more on the water, yet still compact enough they can be towed to new destinations. With so many lakes and rivers awaiting our discovery, it seems a waste to spend all our time on the same body of water, and this is where the trailerable cruiser really shines.

One of the more popular models in this category is Stingray's venerable 250CS – a 25-foot mid-cabin cruiser that seems to think it's larger than it really is. Part of that lies with its two cabin design that offers sleeping accommodations for four with two berths

creating any bubbles or vortices that would reduce propeller bite during both straight line speed and hard cornering maneuvers.

Like all Stingrays, the NMMA-certified 250CS is built with an eye to the environment by using low VOC resins and gelcoats. It is backed with a five-year hull warranty and a three-year hull blister protection plan. Stingray is known as a well made boat, and reputation for quality this is born out by the fit and finish of visible components. Seams on upholstery are straight and neat, carpeting fits snugly, and even little things like the insides of storage cabinets have a clean, professional finish. They're little things, but they inspire a lot of confidence.

Stepping aboard the 250CS one is immedi-

to far starboard that allows easy access to and from the swim platform. A single seat along the port side roughly faces the rear lounge, creating the sense of being in a living room, where one can easily converse with their guests. The helm seat can swivel around to join in the conversation, or face to port where another conversation with one or two people in the adjacent portside lounge can take place. Immediately aft of the helm seat is cockpit refreshment centre with a sink, solid surface countertop, and a removable cooler below. For added convenience a covered, built-in cooler with an overboard drain is incorporated between the portside seats. The advantage to this elegant design



– one in the forward bow and another amidships. It also stems from its surprisingly roomy cockpit and outdoor space. And, from its impressive list of standard features.

With its European styling, the 250CS is an attractive boat with a modern, contemporary feel. It takes full advantage of the company's exclusive Stingray Z-plane hull design, that uses what Stingray calls Z-planes in place of traditional strakes. The idea is that the Z-planes act as horizontal planing faces when submerged, passing through the water cleanly and without

being at all impressed with the spacious open cockpit layout. Remember, this is a 25-foot boat, and in view of its large front deck it is only natural to assume a compromise must have been made here. Not so, thanks to an elegant design and attention to detail in some key areas.

The cockpit is arranged in two separate seating areas that overlap somewhat to handle a single larger group with ease. A curved lounge that expands to form a sunning pad when filler cushions are put in place spans most of the transom, save for an entry gate

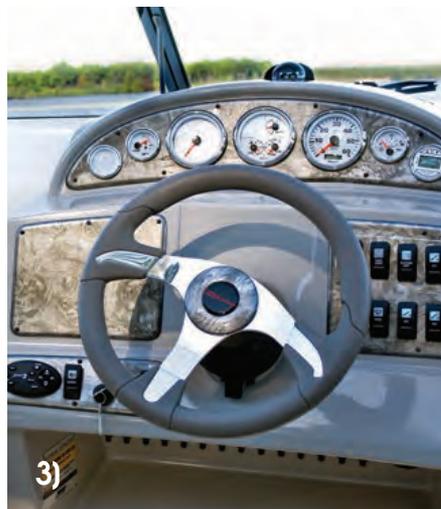
is that the boat maintains an open flow from the front cabin to the swim platform while still offering a wide range of possible seating arrangements. It makes the most of a compact space, giving the boat a sense of being much larger than it really is.

The same effective use of space continues below decks. Step down through the sculpted entry door and the 250CS reveals its popular mid-cabin layout, with galley to port, V-berth straight ahead, mid-cabin behind and head to starboard. The expanded entryway and sloped

# Stingray 250CS

*By Craig Ritchie*





**1)** A convertible dinette table with sit-around lounges doubles as a comfy V-berth overnight.

**2)** The fully equipped galley features attractive wood cabinets, a solid surface countertop, sink, stove, overhead microwave, under-counter refrigerator and trash bin.

**3)** A stylish, two-level helm provides clear visibility of all gauges regardless of how the tilt wheel is positioned.

**4)** The cockpit refreshment centre features a covered sink, solid surface countertop, and a removable cooler below.

overhead go a long way toward facilitating access to the cabin.

The fully equipped galley features attractive wood cabinets, a solid surface countertop, sink, stove, overhead microwave, under-counter refrigerator and trash bin. Up front, a convertible dinette table with sit-around lounges provides a cozy dining space that doubles as a comfy V-berth overnight, with storage beneath. A large overhead skylight with vent provides plenty of light and fresh air, while a closet space keeps clothing beyond shorts and t-shirts presentable for fancy dinners ashore.

The mid-cabin is accessed between the galley and the stairs leading to the main cockpit. Although snug, it is comfortable and offers a level of privacy. Couples who don't wish to be bothered converting the dinette to a V-berth every night will likely gravitate to this berth instead.

The standup fibreglass head with mirrored vanity includes overhead lighting, sink, manual-flush toilet and shower.

Back up on deck, that sculpted cabin entry door also provides access to the foredeck with built-in non-skid steps leading through a walk-through windshield. In addition to the standard stainless steel bow rail wrapping the deck's perimeter, Stingray thoughtfully installed parallel low-profile rails for safe passage to the boat's forepeak. Up front, there's an anchor line locker complete with overboard drain, anchor roller and six-inch stainless steel cleat for tie-down.

The helm station also received some special attention from Stingray's designers, starting with a custom designed flip-up bolster seat for the driver. A stylish, two-

level helm provides clear visibility of all gauges regardless of how the tilt wheel is positioned. Primary gauges – trim, speedometer, a multi-gauge with fuel, engine temperature and volts, tach and oil pressure gauge – are arranged in a single row across the top of the console. Below, stereo controls and a blower switch sit to port of the steering wheel, while two banks of waterproof rocker switches sit to starboard. A Ritchie compass sits atop the helm, while a blank panel above the stereo control could accommodate an in-dash GPS-sonar combo. An integrated foot rest below provides a bit further comfort for the driver.

Because this is a boat that will be used by families as much as couples, the 250CS features an integrated swim platform with a three-step telescoping boarding ladder. There's also a lockable, twin-hatch storage compartment to house shore-power cables, water hoses, fenders and other gear. There's also a standard transom shower.

Stingray's 250CS is offered with a range of power options from MerCruiser and Volvo Penta, ranging from 260 to 320 horsepower. With a 270 horsepower Volvo Penta 5.0 GXi-C Duo-Prop and full fuel, the boat will easily run over 40 mph, and cruise along nicely at 30. This is very good performance for a compact cruiser, which combined with its generous 257 litre fuel capacity, gives the boat more than enough range to really get away from it all and make the most of its ability to explore. Easily towable with a full-size pickup, Stingray's 250CS has a lot to offer, making it no surprise it has become such a popular model in the company's lineup. 📌

## STINGRAY 250CS

|                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| LOA:                 | 25'                              |
| Beam:                | 8' 6"                            |
| Passenger capacity:  | 10                               |
| Fuel capacity:       | 257 L / 68 gal.                  |
| Water capacity:      | 95 L / 25 gal.                   |
| Weight:              | 4,971 lbs.                       |
| Draft (up/down):     | 19" / 35"                        |
| Power (max):         | 320 horsepower                   |
| Power (as reviewed): | Volvo Penta 5.0 GXi-C DP, 270 hp |
| Price (base):        | \$75,002                         |
| Price (as reviewed): | \$75,002                         |

*Quoted setup may not be exactly as depicted in photos. Prices are subject to currency fluctuations and do not include freight, PDI or additional optional equipment.*

### REVIEW BOAT PROVIDED BY

Stingray Boats  
625 Railroad Ave.  
Hartsville, SC  
29551  
(843) 383-4507  
stingrayboats.com