



Readers' CHOICE



You cast your votes, and the results are in for *Southern Boating's* 2021 Readers' Choice Awards. Every vote was counted, including the write-in candidates, and tallied in a secure location without any bias...or stuffing of the ballot box.

Nearly 85,000 readers voted for their preference in 36 categories from favorite power catamaran to long-range cruiser and must-have apparel to favorite fishing reel. Safety products, best boatyard, favorite resort with marina, navigation equipment and radar, marine audio speakers, and sunglasses are a sampling of what's included in this year's choices.

There were quite a few categories in which first and second place were separated by only a few percentage points, but overall, there was a definite winner. Thank you to all our readers who participated. Your input made this event a huge success.



Readers' CHOICE
★ ★ ★

Best Power Catamaran

1ST PLACE: Leopard Catamarans

2ND PLACE: World Cat

3RD PLACE: Horizon Power Catamarans

Leopard Catamarans are high-quality sailing and power catamarans featuring an abundance of equipment options and layouts designed with livability in mind. Leopard has joined forces with builders Robertson and Caine and Naval Architects Simonis Voogd to design its latest range of spacious, robust, performance-driven, bluewater cruising catamarans. The latest design is the Leopard 53 (above).
leopardcatamarans.com

Favorite Boat Stabilizer

1ST PLACE: Seakeeper

2ND PLACE: Naiad

3RD PLACE: Quick

Seakeeper eliminates up to 95 percent of boat roll on vessels 23 feet and longer to ensure a smooth ride for all. seakeeper.com



Favorite Fishing Reel

1ST PLACE: Penn

2ND PLACE: Shimano

3RD PLACE: Daiwa

Penn conventional reel models offer power and versatility for bottom fishing, jigging, trolling, and large bait casting. pennfishing.com



Favorite Marine Radar

1ST PLACE: Garmin

2ND PLACE: Raymarine

3RD PLACE: Furuno

Garmin's full line of radome and open array radars includes the GMR Phantom 24 (above) used to detect and highlight targets on the move. garmin.com



Favorite Boating Insurance Company

1ST PLACE: GEICO

2ND PLACE: Progressive

3RD PLACE: State Farm

Just like their car insurance, **GEICO** lets you customize your boat insurance, too. Expert agents offer 24/7 customer service and boat towing assistance. geico.com

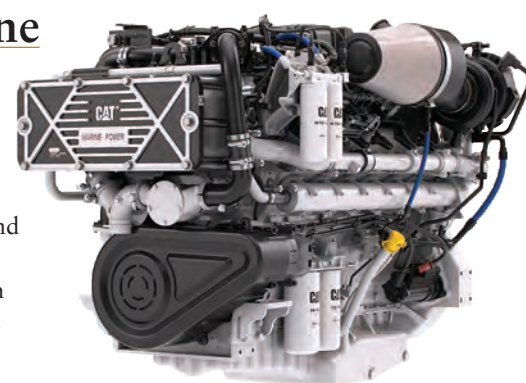
Favorite Inboard Engine

1ST PLACE: Caterpillar

2ND PLACE: Cummings

3RD PLACE: Volvo Penta

Long-term durability, high fuel efficiency, and long-life-to-overhaul, **Caterpillar** marine engines provide maximum productivity with minimum outlay. cat.com



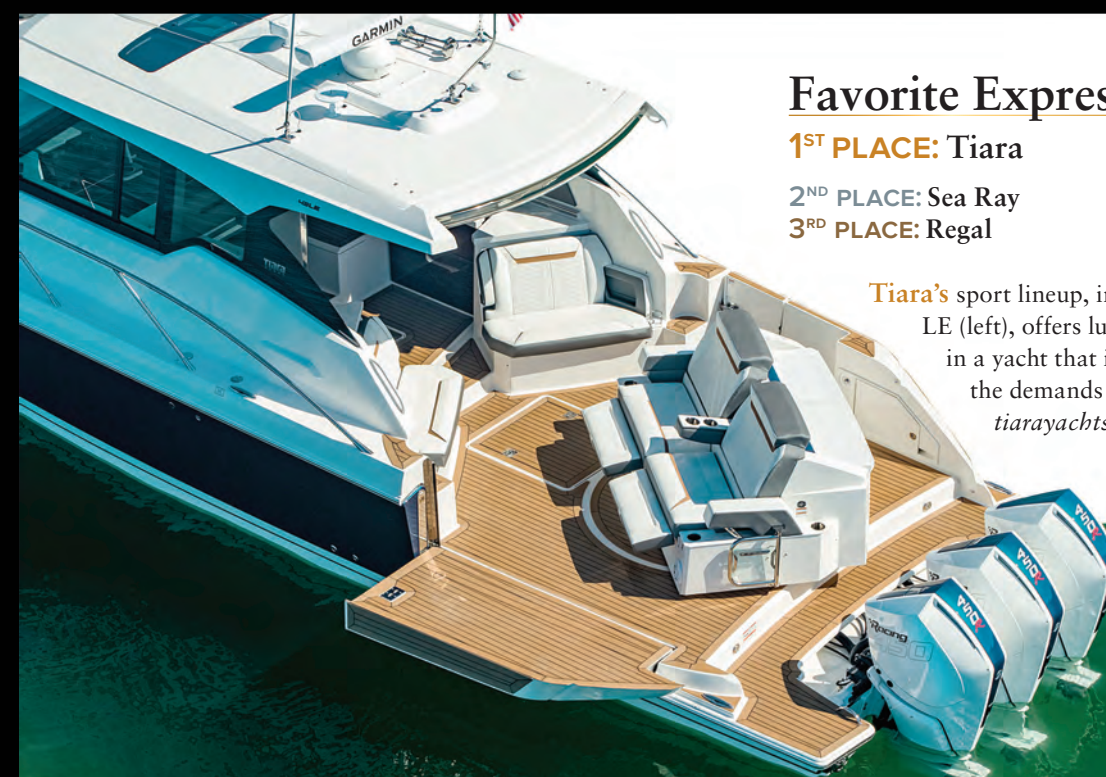
Favorite Express Cruiser

1ST PLACE: Tiara

2ND PLACE: Sea Ray

3RD PLACE: Regal

Tiara's sport lineup, including the 43 LE (left), offers luxury and comfort in a yacht that is ready to meet the demands of a day cruise. tiarayachts.com



Favorite Boating Navigation Equipment

1ST PLACE: Garmin

2ND PLACE: Raymarine

3RD PLACE: Simrad

Garmin's navigation equipment lets you pinpoint your location, mark points of interest, find fish, and pilot safely. garmin.com



Favorite Marine Audio Speakers

1ST PLACE: JL Audio

2ND PLACE: Fusion

3RD PLACE: Kicker

JL Audio marine speakers are optimized for all boating conditions. You will get perfect sound quality for enjoyable listening at any volume. jlaudio.com

Favorite Entry-Level Boat

1ST PLACE: Boston Whaler

2ND PLACE: Sea Ray

3RD PLACE: Grady-White

Boston Whaler models include everything from sportfishing boats, pleasure boats, and tenders to cabin cruisers, center consoles, and dual consoles. bostonwhaler.com



Favorite Charter Company

1ST PLACE: The Moorings

2ND PLACE: MarineMax Vacations

3RD PLACE: Sunsail

Featuring a fleet of yachts spread across 20 destinations worldwide, **The Moorings** creates unforgettable private yacht charter vacations ideal for parties of up to 12 guests. moorings.com



Favorite VHF Radio

1ST PLACE: ICOM

2ND PLACE: Garmin

3RD PLACE: Standard Horizon

ICOM was the first manufacturer to produce very compact handheld VHF marine radios that are submersible, have built in GPS and DSC, and float. icomamerica.com



Favorite Sunglasses

1ST PLACE: Maui Jim

2ND PLACE: Ray-Ban

3RD PLACE: Costa del Mar

Maui Jim polarized sunglasses are available in a wide range from classic, timeless designs to the latest modern styles. mauijim.com





Favorite Center Console

1ST PLACE: Boston Whaler

2ND PLACE: Grady-White

3RD PLACE: Scout

Boston Whaler center consoles, like the 250 Dauntless (below), feature a leading-edge design and best-in-class amenities for offshore cruising, fishing, and water sports.



Favorite Outboard Engine

1ST PLACE: Yamaha

2ND PLACE: Mercury

3RD PLACE: Suzuki

Yamaha offers a full lineup of four-stroke outboard engines from 425ps to 2.5ps that provide excellent fuel economy and cleaner emissions in a lightweight, compact design. yamahaoutboards.com

Favorite Marine Generator

1ST PLACE: Cummins

2ND PLACE: Honda

3RD PLACE: Generac

With more than 80 years in the marine market, **Cummins** generators offer reliability, optimal performance, and maximum efficiency. cummins.com



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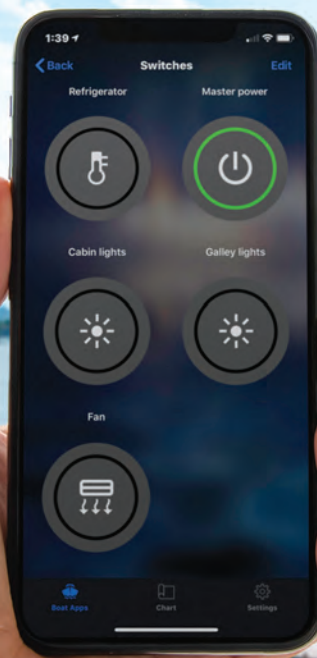
Favorite Boat Security System

1ST PLACE: Garmin

2ND PLACE: Siren Marine

3RD PLACE: Raymarine

Garmin gives boaters peace of mind with products that let you track, monitor, and control your boat, such as its OnDeck System (shown). garmin.com



Favorite Binoculars

1ST PLACE: Bushnell

2ND PLACE: Steiner

3RD PLACE: Fujinon

Bushnell has a full lineup of high-quality marine binoculars that are 100 percent watertight and deliver bright, clear, HD imagery. bushnell.com



Favorite Safety Product

1ST PLACE: EPIRB

2ND PLACE: GPS Tracking Device

3RD PLACE: Strobe Lights

EPIRBs provide global coverage, accurate position location, a reliable transmitted signal, an encoded message to identify the distressed vessel, and a faster response time. ACR's GlobalFIX V4 EPIRB (right) has an internal 66-channel GPS and uses the 121.5 MHz signal for more accurate detection when rescuers are close by. acrartex.com



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Favorite Alcohol

1ST PLACE: Grey Goose

2ND PLACE: Tito's Vodka

3RD PLACE: Mount Gay Rum

Grey Goose Vodka is 100 percent traceable from crop to cork. Every step of the processmaking is done in France, from harvest to bottling. There are only two ingredients in Grey Goose: single-origin Picardie winter wheat and natural spring water. Boaters approve of the eight varieties available.

greygoose.com



Favorite RIB/Tender

1ST PLACE: Zodiac

2ND PLACE: Highfield

3RD PLACE: Walker Bay



Zodiac inflatable boats, like the Pro 6.5 (left), cater to every passenger, resulting in a safe, smooth ride everyone can enjoy. They provide the ultimate on-the-water experience for any water sport. zodiac-nautic.com

Favorite Cruising Itinerary

1ST PLACE: The Bahamas

2ND PLACE: The Florida Keys

3RD PLACE: The Great Loop

The Bahamas is a fan favorite for so many reasons. The archipelago comprises 700 islands and more than 2,000 rocks and cays and is easy to reach from the East Coast. Boaters can make a cruising itinerary in a few days or a few weeks. From fishing to diving to ecotourism, there are plenty of places to explore. bahamas.com



Favorite Marine Watch

1ST PLACE: Rolex

2ND PLACE: Tag Heuer

3RD PLACE: Garmin

Rolex watches are crafted from the finest raw materials and assembled with meticulous attention to detail. The Submariner model (right) sets the standard for luxury divers' timepieces. rolex.com



Favorite Cooler Brand

1ST PLACE: YETI

2ND PLACE: Igloo

3RD PLACE: RTIC

For unmatched, on-the-water performance, nothing beats a **YETI** cooler. Their hard and soft-sided coolers are built to be by a boater's side for each catch or cruise. yeti.com



Best Boatyard

1ST PLACE: Lauderdale Marine Center

2ND PLACE: Cable Marine

3RD PLACE: MarineMax

Fort Lauderdale's **Lauderdale Marine Center** is the largest yacht repair facility and shipyard in the United States. The yard can accommodate vessels up to 170 feet and 330 tons. lauderdalemarinecenter.com



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Favorite Marina

1ST PLACE: Abaco Beach Resort

2ND PLACE: The Moorings Marina – BVI

3RD PLACE: Ocean Reef Club

Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour Marina in the Bahamas is home to the largest state-of-the-art marina with 200 slips that can fit yachts up to 200 feet, onsite Customs and Immigration clearance, 24-hour security, Wi-Fi, electricity, water, and gas and diesel services. abacobeachresort.com



Favorite Thermal Camera

1ST PLACE: FLIR

2ND PLACE: Raymarine

FLIR thermal imaging cameras turn night into day, keeping boaters safe and secure so they can go out on the water with confidence. FLIR offers a lineup of leading-edge thermal cameras that are durable, reliable, and easy to use. flir.com



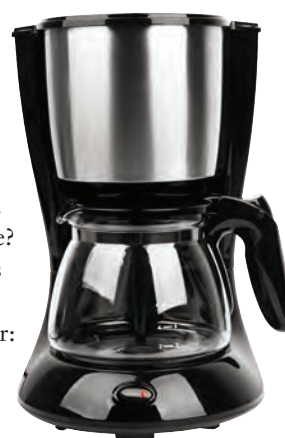
Must-Have Galley Item

1ST PLACE: Coffee Maker

2ND PLACE: Blender

3RD PLACE: Insta-Pot

Coffee Maker was the No. 1 must-have galley item and for good reason—who are we without coffee? Nowadays, there are so many ways to make coffee; it's just a matter of choosing your favorite coffee maker: instant (Keurig, Nespresso, etc.), French Press, percolator...



©ADOBE STOCK: VADARSHOP

Favorite Long-Range Cruiser

1ST PLACE: Marlow

2ND PLACE: Ocean Alexander

3RD PLACE: Grand Banks

Marlow Yachts, such as the 100-foot Explorer *Ice* (below), can cross the oceans in luxury, comfort, and reliability. These yachts shine in performance and appearance. marlowyachts.com







Marine Elegance



Atlantes

DESIGNED WITH THE END USER IN MIND

Atlantes and Marine Elegance offer users a friendly, quiet, marine toilet experience. The Marine Elegance can be ordered with the bidet feature as part of the toilet. Both are easy to install with low water usage and low amp draw.

raritaneng.com | 856.825.4900

Favorite Resort with Marina

1ST PLACE: Ocean Reef Club

2ND PLACE: Abaco Beach Resort

3RD PLACE: Highbourne Cay Marina

Ocean Reef Club is a 2,500-acre private, resort-style community. This boating, fishing, and diving paradise has a full-service 175-slip marina for yachts up to 175 feet, a private airport, private beach, two 18-hole golf courses, tennis courts, a spa and salon, 12 restaurants, and more. oceanreef.com



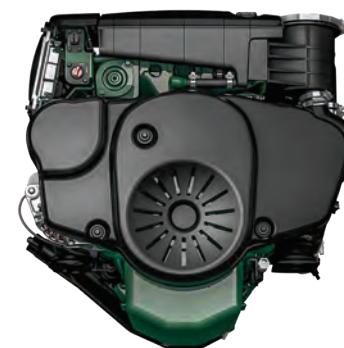
Pod System vs. Direct Drive

1ST PLACE: Direct Drive

2ND PLACE: Pod System

A **Direct Drive** system places the engine near the center of the boat. It is less complex, energy-efficient, and very little horsepower is lost through the direct drive transmission.

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Engine Type

1ST PLACE: Diesel

2ND PLACE: Gas

Diesel is the boaters' choice because the engine is more fuel-efficient and tends to last longer.



Favorite Must-Have Boating Apparel Item

1ST PLACE: Sperry Boat Shoes

2ND PLACE: Columbia PFG Gear

3RD PLACE: Helly Hansen Gear

Sperry Boat Shoes are breathable, slip- and water-resistant, have non-marking soles, and provide a comfortable, secure fit for all-day wear. sperry.com

Thinking Novurania? Think Northstar.

NORTHSTAR has raised the high-bar with the launch of Axis tenders. Standard features include:

- Hydraulic Steering Fuel System with integral fuel tank, fuel gauge, and water separator
- Electrical System with: Switch Panel, LED Nav Lights, 360° Light w/ Socket, Automatic Bilge Pump
- Swim Ladder
- Telescopic Cleats
- Lifting Rings
- USB Charging Port
- Achilles Hypalon Fabric

From the high-caliber build, to the tight tolerances in construction, to the feature-filled details, these tenders rival premium brands but without the premium price.

For more information go to: nauticalventures.com



Dania Beach • Ft. Lauderdale • Palm Beach • Sarasota • Tampa Bay



Favorite Vacation Destination

1ST PLACE: The Bahamas

2ND PLACE: The British Virgin Islands

3RD PLACE: The Florida Keys

With crystal-clear blue waters, gorgeous white-sand beaches that stretch for miles, plenty of islands to explore, and an abundance of water activities all around, it's no doubt **The Bahamas** is the No. 1 vacation destination! bahamas.com



Favorite Sportfisherman

1ST PLACE: Viking

2ND PLACE: Hatteras

3RD PLACE: Bertram

Viking sportfishers, like the new 46 BF (shown), are designed for the ultimate luxury tournament fishing and yachting experience. "Building a better boat every day" has been Viking's philosophy for more than five decades. vikingyachts.com








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Favorite Foul-Weather Gear

1ST PLACE: Helly Hansen

2ND PLACE: Gill

3RD PLACE: Grundens

From versatile coastal jackets to professional-grade offshore sailing jackets, **Helly Hansen** gear is perfect for high-speed racing, coastal cruising, or enjoying long days on the water. hellyhansen.com

