

TEST DRIVES

Pursuit 25  Mustang 35  Baja 23  Viking SC 67



Pursuit 2570

The builder replaces its best-selling center console with an instant classic. By Dave Lear

Dropping the most popular model from a company's lineup can never be an easy decision, but when the replacement is better than the original, letting go is easy. At least that's my take after a recent test of the new Pursuit 2570 Center Console.

Legendary Marine provided the boat for my test, and as we idled away from its state-of-the-art facility in Destin, Fla., I had the opportunity to check out this great-looking fish boat that replaces the builder's 24. Pursuit is known for its meticulous attention to detail and that commitment is evident on the 2570. There are precise covering board cutouts in the raised diamond nonskid, hatches that seal tightly without the slightest squeak and wiring harnesses that would make electrical engineers drool with

envy. This 24 is built with uncompromising quality, similar to other high-end fish boats like the Regulator 24FS and the EdgeWater 245 CC.

This Pursuit is for fishing, but it doesn't sacrifice family-friendly creature comforts. Forward bow seats double as roomy storage compartments. The forward console with its built-in cooler and backrest doubles as another comfortable seat. The 92-quart port box is insulated and drains overboard, while the starboard companion comes without a liner so it will hold odd-shaped gear like an anchor float or a downrigger. There is plenty of room to stand up here to fight a hot fish and the recessed bowrail provides security when seas get lumpy.

Behind the oversized leaning post is the command center for all the angling action. It includes rod holders, a tool and lure rack, tackle storage and a 32-gallon livewell with acrylic lid. The well is finished with blue gel coat based on findings by the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution that show baitfish are more content when near a natural color. Rounding out the fishing features are the transom rigging station, cutting board, insulated 40-gallon fish box cooler and freshwater washdown. Cockpit coaming bolsters, a raw-water washdown, rod racks and rod holders are all standard.

Our test boat was powered with a pair

PERFORMANCE

Test Power: (2) 150-hp Yamaha four-stroke outboards. Power options include single Yamaha 225- and 250-hp four-strokes or a single 300-hp Yamaha HPDI engine.

RPM	MPH	GPH	dB-A
1000	5.2	1.5	67
1500	7.5	2.6	69
2000	9.1	4.4	74
2500	15.4	7.4	79
3000	21.7	7.9	80
3500	27.2	10.2	87
4000	32.7	13.1	93
4500	38.5	18.1	93
5000	43.0	20.3	97
5500	51.3	29.2	99


Speeds measured by GPS in Choctawhatchee Bay, Fla., in a light chop w/three people on board, 55 gals. of fuel and five gals. of water. Fuel consumption measured by a Yamaha Fuel Management System. Sound levels were measured at the helm in dB-A.

Standard Equipment (major items): Recessed stainless steel bowrail; raw-water washdown; transom door; cockpit coaming bolsters; Armstrong boarding ladder; forward console seat/cooler; enclosed head compartment w/manual head, holding tank and macerator; hydraulic steering; Racor fuel filters; 20-gal. freshwater tank; Yamaha Fuel Management System; cockpit rod racks; rod holders; insulated bow fish boxes; leaning post/live well w/tackle storage; bait-rigging station.

Optional Equipment (major items): Bow pulpit w/roller; Yamaha Fuel Management System for single engine; three hull color choices; forward fish box cushions; sunpad; fold-down seat w/cushion; electric head; Clarion stereo system; Sirius satellite radio; Bimini top; T-top w/spreader light.

Warranty: Five-year structural coverage on the hull and deck; five-year blister warranty. **Pursuit Boats**, www.pursuitboats.com.

of 150-hp Yamaha four-stroke outboards. Top speed was 51.3 mph, but by throttling down to an economical cruising pace of 3500 rpm, we were able to make 27.2 mph while only burning 10.2 gph. That converts to a range of 312 nautical miles, a welcome figure with today's skyrocketing pump prices. We couldn't quite plane the boat on just one outboard, but I'm sure that will be possible once the motors are broken in.

Thanks to its aggressive, modified deep-V hull and sharp deadrise, the 2570 rode as softly as the famous sugar-white sand of the Gulf of Mexico. Acceleration was immediate in the rolling swells that greeted us and the boat was very responsive in tight turns. It produced a clean wake at trolling speeds and visibility was unhindered at the helm. In short, the Pursuit 2570 was a pleasure to drive. 

AT A GLANCE

PURSUIT 25

Price (w/test power)	\$82,515
LOA	24'9"
Beam	8'6"
Draft	1'6"
Disp.	4,555 lbs.
Bridge Clearance (w/top)	8'4"
Transom Deadrise	21 degrees
Water	20 gals.
Fuel	150 gals.