

Pursuit OS 375



A triple-engine thrill ride. BY HEATHER FRECKMANN

Last year Pursuit introduced the largest outboard-powered model in its 30-year history, the OS 375. I arrived in Holland, Michigan—home to parent company S2 Yachts—to meet senior regional sales manager Ron Burkdoll. Lakeside Marine of Ohio provided the OS 375 for testing. Its design and solid construction have a semi-custom look. This is part of Pursuit's appeal. Another factor is the large number of standard features.

"The owner's biggest question is, How many engines do you want and what color should it be?" Burkdoll said with a laugh.

The OS 375 comes standard with twin 350-hp four-stroke Yamahas. The real excitement, however, is the option of triple engines for a jaw-dropping 1,050 hp, as our test boat had. Pursuit designed the boat around the new engine technology, yielding uncluttered cockpit space and generous storage.

The enormous transom contains a 300-quart, commercial-grade, insulated fiberglass refrigerator/freezer fishbox with digitally controlled thermostat. Other fishing features include a lighted blue Oceana 50-gallon recirculating livewell, two in-deck 68-gallon insulated fishboxes, in-deck fender storage, six enclosed lockable gunwale storage compartments and six gunwale rod holders. An additional six holders are in the cabin. In addition, the tackle station in the port-side lounge features drawers, storage boxes, lure tubes, a refrigerator/freezer behind the helm, an electric smokeless cockpit grill, and an entertainment center with a hot and cold water sink, cutting board and storage.

Designers also considered ease of maintenance, from the location of the seven batteries and access to mechanicals via the cockpit to the electrical panel and the convenience of servicing the outboards. I also liked that there were no sharp corners to bang into when the seas get bumpy. There's cockpit air conditioning and heating as well.

Down below, the OS 375 has a custom convertible master berth and a surprisingly large aft berth, which also provides a settee for extra dressing space and an opening portlight. The galley has a two-burner glass

cooktop, microwave, refrigerator/freezer and plenty of storage. The standard flat-screen TVs, dinette with teak table and solid teak-and-maple floor enhance the interior. In the head, the separate shower has a molded-in fiberglass seat and a panel that conceals the plumbing.

The boat has a stable footprint, offers exceptional visibility, and the broad, flat sidedecks and molded-in steps help the flow of traffic.

"Boating should be fun and relaxing," said Gregg Weatherby, regional sales manager, as we cast off. "Well, except for the adrenaline part"—provided by those triple engines. "When the throttles know you're maneuvering, the middle engine comes out of play," Weatherby explained. "You can maneuver as you would with twins."

As we motored through the channel between Lakes Macatawa and Michigan, we passed a bass boat. Weatherby pointed and laughed. "Did you see those three heads whip around?" he asked. "Three engines—hot boat. And we're making less of a wake than they were!"

I grasped the wheel and threw the throttles forward. With a bottom designed to plane right away, the 375 didn't get bowproud. It rocketed to 54 mph and 5500 rpm. Its ideal cruise is 32 to 34 mph. Considering the amount of horsepower on its back, the 375 was effortless to handle.

"Like a big jetski, isn't she?" Weatherby asked, grinning.

For lack of a better expression, the OS 375's ease of operation was cool, from prep to departure to handling. And in terms of design and features, it's one smart boat.

specs

LOA	39'2"
Beam	13'
Draft	3'6"
Weight.....	17,600 to 18,442 lbs.
Fuel capacity.....	370 gals.
Base power.....	T/Yamaha 350s
Base price.....	\$444,345
Power as tested.....	3xYamaha350s
Price as tested.....	\$479,925

www.pursuitboats.com