



CHRIS-CRAFT Launch 28 GT

I found the new Chris-Craft Launch 28 GT a sportier, more versatile boat than its Launch series fleet mates.

Hull No. 1 was sterndrive-powered by a Volvo Penta 380 CE engine, sporting an electrically retractable hard-top that folds down to the windshield — a new feature.

accents a neat dash with a Chris-Craft branded gauge, push-button controls and a 12-inch Garmin navigation screen with CZone digital switching. The perforated stainless-steel trim highlights air vents, controls, the windlass/anchor latch and cleats, adding lots of shine and sparkle.

The buttery almond upholstery — a cushioned and coated vinyl — sports a new “wave” stitching, departing from the diamond pattern. Rounded seats and sun lounges in the open bow and aft deck add softness to the sleek traditional hull. The aft sun pad is a special feature; its backrest slides forward to lengthen the lounge, or back to create an aft forward-facing bench. Helm seats boast bolsters.

The robust dive door lifts and swings inboard, while the teak floor insert opens to reveal the swim ladder, with two others on the bow and swim platform, making

water access three-way easy. Rods and skis can be stowed in-sole, while fenders or scuba tanks are stored in deep compartments to port of the aft sun lounge. More hinged stowage compartments are tucked behind bow lounges. Higher freeboard adds safety and enhances the flared bow’s dry ride.

A portable potty under the port cockpit is convenient, and a drawer refrigerator is behind the port cockpit seat. An additional refrigerator, sink and grill can replace the starboard corner seating behind the captain’s seat. Everything aboard screams luxury. —*Marilyn DeMartini*

To see a photo gallery of the Chris-Craft Launch 28 GT, visit boatingmag.com/3111.

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I tested Hull No. 2, a topless version powered by a 350 hp Yamaha outboard. This boat planed in seconds, with no bow rise, and cruised comfortably at 27 mph.

Both models boast varnished mahogany gleaming from the steering wheel, helm and gunwales, contrasting the deep-blue metallic paint. Teak accents on the bow, footrests and swim platform complement mats underfoot (a teak sole is optional). The leather-trimmed steering wheel

High Points

- ▶ Italian-designed Chris-Craft blends luxury materials for functional style.
- ▶ Higher freeboard accommodates walk-around room, a dive door, beach anchoring and watersports.
- ▶ Sliding aft sun-pad backrest adds seating and lounging versatility.

Low Points

- ▶ Woven sea-grass deck lining looks green, adding barefoot comfort, but must be unsnapped and rolled to access the in-sole ski and rod stowage. Where to stow those water toys?
- ▶ Flip-up portable potty accommodates Mom, but she may not appreciate the lack of space and comfort.

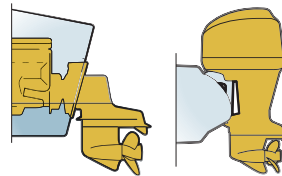
Toughest Competitor

- ▶ The Cobalt 25SC (about \$114,000 with a Mercury Verado 350) delivers similar features (the same 8-foot-6-inch beam and seating for 13). If you want to turn heads, check out the Riva Isleo 27 — for about \$300,000. Capeesh?

· LOA: 28'10" · BEAM: 8'6" · DRAFT (MAX): 3'1"
· DISPLACEMENT: 6,948 lb. · TRANSDOM DEADRISE: 20 degrees · BRIDGE CLEARANCE: 4'10" · FUEL CAPACITY: 85 gal. · WATER CAPACITY: 9 gal. · MAX HORSEPOWER: 430 · AVAILABLE POWER: Single MerCruiser or Volvo Penta gasoline sterndrives up to 430 hp; single outboard to 350 hp

Price (base): \$184,990 (sterndrive); \$189,950 (outboard)

AVAILABLE POWER: STERNDRIVE OR OUTBOARD



HOW WE TESTED

ENGINE: Yamaha F350 PROP: 14.5" x 19" 3-blade stainless steel GEAR RATIO: 1.73:1 FUEL LOAD: 40 gal. WATER LOAD: 0 gal. CREW WEIGHT: 1,050 lb.

CHRIS-CRAFT
Sarasota, Florida; 941-351-4900; chriscraft.com



BOATING
CERTIFIED
TEST
RESULTS

SPEED				EFFICIENCY				OPERATION	
rpm	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	angle	sound level
1000	4.95	5.70	1.70	2.91	3.35	223	257	0	61
1500	6.91	7.95	2.90	2.38	2.74	182	210	1	68
2000	7.78	8.95	4.50	1.73	1.99	132	152	3	69
2500	7.91	9.10	5.90	1.34	1.54	103	118	5	69
3000	8.95	10.30	8.80	1.02	1.17	78	90	6	74
3500	10.69	12.30	11.60	0.92	1.06	70	81	5	74
4000	14.16	16.30	14.90	0.95	1.09	73	84	5	74
4500	27.55	31.70	16.70	1.65	1.90	126	145	4	77
5000	32.24	37.10	20.20	1.60	1.84	122	141	4	78
5500	36.93	42.50	25.10	1.47	1.69	113	130	4	79
6100	41.49	47.75	33.40	1.24	1.43	95	109	3	81

MOST ECONOMICAL CRUISING SPEED