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EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS

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WELCOME TO THE *YACHTING* EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS. Our staff has evaluated countless vessels, technology, gear and marine-related services during the past 12 months. We've discussed and debated. In the following pages, you'll see the companies, products and initiatives that came out on top of those debates. So, without further ado, here are *Yachting's* Editors' Choice Award winners for 2023.



U-BOAT WORX'S SUPER SUB

U-Boat Worx's Super Sub can hit 8 knots underwater. According to U-Boat Worx, that's 2 knots faster than the top cruising speed of a bottlenose dolphin and 5 knots faster than the average submersible.

Weighing in at a little more than 19,800 pounds, the Super Sub accommodates two passengers and a pilot in what U-Boat Worx describes as "a luxury supercar interior." Thruster capacity comes from lithium-ion batteries. With the four thrusters, the Super Sub can make 30-degree climbs and dives to a depth of almost 1,000 feet beneath the water's surface.

Hydrofoils on the after end of the U-Boat Worx Super Sub help direct the flow of thrust, which allows the pilot to make sharp turns and banks. The sub's overall design, in the shape of a droplet, sprang from the mind of a sub owner. Total use time is reportedly eight hours, with a feature that prevents the sub from exceeding its maximum operating depth.



GRAND BANKS 85 SKYLounge / ADVENTURE AWAITS

• **What We Said** "A timeless exterior design, today's technology, and a hull form penned for seakindness, efficiency, comfort and performance make the Grand Banks 85 Skylounge a thoroughly modern yacht ready to take adventurous cruisers waypoint-hopping until they feel like stopping. Or not." • **Next-Level Flagship** This yacht displaces 108,025 pounds, with a 22-plus-foot beam and an air draft of just under 26 feet. It's a formidable cruiser. A vital and influential feature of this yacht is the builder's patented V-warp semidisplacement hull form. It has a fine entry, and the deadrise transitions with notable flare amidships that helps "roll water away" from the hull's surface. Farther aft, the deadrise reduces to 6 to 8 degrees, adding stability and lift, and resulting in a vessel with little to no bow rise when throttling up. And this boat leaves a flat wake. Inside, satin-finish teak warms the salon, while an open plan, 7 feet of headroom and glass in all directions enhances the sense of volume while creating unobstructed ocean vistas. The four-stateroom 85 Skylounge that we got aboard even has a cleverly concealed piano in the master stateroom. • **Final Thoughts** The Grand Banks 85 Skylounge is a vessel that exponentially expands the notion of what this builder is and what it is becoming.

Cruising at 21 knots with twin 1,000 hp Volvo Penta IPS diesels, the 85 Skylounge has a 972-nautical-mile range.



HORIZON YACHTS FD110 / OPEN-WATER LUXURY

• **What We Said** "Horizon Yachts, working in collaboration with yacht designer Cor D. Rover, developed its Fast Displacement yacht series with a hull form notable for its 'high-performance piercing bow' design as well as its ability to carry volume forward, creating supersize interior spaces above and below. Horizon has continually pushed the envelope on this design, and the FD110 illustrates the big benefits that come with it." • **Inside and Outside** While many yachts would taper the beam about two-thirds of the way up the hull, the FD110's ability to maintain its broad shoulders helps create the full-beam on-deck master stateroom. Guests belowdecks benefit as well, with three VIP suites, plus a fourth guest stateroom. Another feature of this hull form is displacement cruising comfort for guests beyond displacement speeds. Power is twin 1,900 hp Caterpillar diesels, and the FD110 can cruise anywhere from 8 to 16 knots. Top hop: 20 knots. At 10 knots, range is 2,000-plus nautical miles. • **Final Thoughts** The Horizon Yachts FD110 breaks the mold on traditional motoryacht design in a way that is based around form, function and being serious about fun on the water.



TAKE
THE NEXT
STEP

In addition to a trideck version, the Horizon Yachts FD110 comes in a Skyline option.



SLEIPNER EVISION

Sleipner's eVision DC electric thrusters from Imtra have the first electric motor designed for marine thrusters,

with an industry-leading run time at 100 percent thrust, lighter weight and a smaller size than comparable thrusters.

"Sleipner eVision is the result of years of dedicated development and hard work," said Steve Howd,

aftermarket product manager of DC thrusters for Imtra. "With its extreme efficiency and low amp draw, eVision is the ideal thruster solution for DC environments and a perfect fit for the growing interest in boat electrification."

Sleipner eVision is for boats 40 to 100 feet length overall. This model has 30 percent less amperage draw than previous models, is quieter, is as much as 50 percent lighter than comparable models and takes up 40 percent less space.

The thrusters are compatible with Sleipner's S-Link Control system and can be integrated for joystick control.