

Robalo 226 Cayman (2019-)

Brief Summary

As the popularity of bay boats increases so does the lineup at Robalo. The second of three models, the 226 Cayman comes with the wide-ranging ability to easily transition from skinny coves and marshes to coastal conditions. With power ranging from 150-hp to 250-hp we took advantage of the opportunity to test her with the mid-range 200-hp Yamaha 4-stroke and reached a top speed of 45.4 mph.

Price

Base Price \$38295.00

Prices, features, designs, and equipment are subject to change. Please see your local dealer or visit the builder's website for the latest information available on this boat model.

Key Features

- Premium vinyl cockpit upholstery with Nano-Block technology
- Three 30 gallon livewells/fishboxes with LED lighting and blue gelcoat finish
- Brushed anodized leaning post with backrest and 54 qt. cooler
- Aft center jump seat with folding backrests and stainless steel hardware
- Aluminum trailer with disk brakes and folding tongue jack
- Custom molded forward lockable storage with drains
- Sea Star hydraulic steering
- Port/starboard under gunwale horizontal rod storage
- 4-step telescoping boarding ladder with handle

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
600	3	2.6	0.4	7.4	6.4	398	346.3	63
1000	4.6	4	0.8	5.8	5	311	270	68
1500	6.3	5.5	1.3	4.8	4.2	262	227.6	74

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
2000	7.8	6.7	2.3	3.4	3	186	161.7	75
2500	10.9	9.5	3.3	3.3	2.9	178	155.1	80
3000	19.7	17.1	4.5	4.4	3.8	238	207.3	85
3500	24.8	21.6	5.2	4.8	4.1	258	223.9	87
4000	30	26	7.5	4	3.5	216	187.5	87
4500	33.9	29.5	9.5	3.6	3.1	194	168.4	88
5000	39.7	34.5	13.6	2.9	2.5	158	137.1	92
5500	43.5	37.8	16.5	2.6	2.3	143	124	95
5800	45.4	39.5	19.4	2.3	2	126	109.9	96

[View the test results in metric units](#)

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Specifications

Length Overall	22' 6" / 6.86 m
BEAM	8' 6" 2.59 m
Dry Weight	3,200 lbs. 1,452 kg
Tested Weight	3,980 lbs. 1,805 kg
Draft	12" 30 cm

Draft Up	12" 31 cm
Draft Down	28" 71 cm
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	15-deg.
Max Headroom	open
Bridge Clearance	8' 2.44 m (max)
Weight Capacity	
Person Capacity	8
Fuel Capacity	60 gal. 227 L
Water Capacity	N/A
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	3,980 lbs. 1,805 kg
Aft Deck	
Salon Inside Width	
Salon Fore & Aft	

Salon Height	
Salon Volume	
Galley Volume	
Master SR Width	
Master SR fore & Aft	
Master SR Overhead	
Master SR Volume	
Eng. Room Volume	

Acceleration Times & Conditions

Time to Plane	3.4 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	N/A
Props	17m 14 1/4 Reliance
Load	2 persons, full fuel, no water, 50 lbs. of gear
Climate	85 deg., 80 humid.; wind: 0-0 mph; seas: flat

Robalo 226 Cayman running shot

The Robalo 226 Cayman has a LOA of 22'6" (6.86 m), a beam of 8'6" (2.59 m) and a hull draft of 12" (30.5 cm).

Mission Statement

The Robalo 226 Cayman continues the line of shallow draft bay boats that started with the 206 and tops out at the 246. This mid-sized model has everything we've come to expect from Robalo, including the efficient "extended V-Plane" hull that carries the running surface well past the transom. Of course the most impressive feature of the 226 Cayman is in her ability to handle the shallow water flats along with Jon boats and skiffs on one day, and on the next venture out into the inlets to venture offshore alongside the usual array of center consoles. Her 15-degree deadrise provides her with the right balance of sea-keeping ability and shallow draft that makes this crossover possible.

Robalo 226 Cayman profile shot

The 226 Cayman continues the line of shallow draft bay boats that can handle coastal conditions equally well.

Distinguishing Features

- **Imedge Gel Coat.** This premium gel coat resists fading, chalking and yellowing.
- **Three 30-gallon (113.6 L) Livewells.** Each one accommodates dividers for separating baits and each is insulated so they can be used as fishboxes as well.
- **Optional Fiberglass Hardtop.** Where others would go with a canvas T-top, Robalo went right to the fiberglass version with powder-coated rails and an electronics box. Color match the underside gel coat as an added option (\$506).
- **Forward Access to Head Compartment.** This provides more room for entry than do the side access versions. It's also safer to enter when in a seaway.
- **Kevlar Reinforced Hull.** This is a great feature for adding strength, and it's particularly attractive to those who like to beach their boats.
- **Saltwater Rigged.** Between her ceramic-cored transom and stainless steel everywhere, this is a boat that will have no problem enduring a harsh saltwater environment.

Performance

In the U.S., Robalo offers the 226 Cayman with Yamaha engines ranging from 150-hp to 250-hp. Internationally, she can be powered by Yamaha or Mercury. We accepted Robalo's invitation to test with the 200-hp Yamaha XB. With that engine turning a 17x14 ¼ reliance prop, we reached a top speed of 45.4 mph

while burning 19.4 gph. Our most economical cruise came in at 3500 rpm and 24.8 mph. That speed reduced the fuel burn to 5.2 gph giving the 226 Cayman a range of 258 miles and an endurance of 6 hours 24 minutes while still holding back a 10% reserve. We reached planing speed in 3.4 seconds, cruised through 20 mph in 4.8 seconds and reached 30 in 7.7 seconds.

Handling

Why is it that every time we go to test a boat with a reputation for handling seas we get flat calm conditions? Well, such was the case on test day for the 226 Cayman but we have tested her smaller sister and that test validated how well these boats handle offshore conditions.

Rebate of 226 Cayman
Rebate 226 Cayman running shot

Okay so we didn't get a choppy day to test but we still have a good indication that she handles conditions quite well.

Nevertheless, we did come away with a feeling that this boat, and her solid ride, would easily accommodate conditions well clear of protected inlets. She had docile handling characteristics and turned well, carving nicely through the turns. SeaStar hydraulic steering was a bit stiff. Ergonomics at the helm were excellent.

Features Inspection

Fish-ability

First things first, this is a fishing boat at heart and she has several features that ensure that she's well suited to the task. It starts with dual casting decks, one forward and one at the stern. Both are elevated, all hardware is flush mounted and outboard cleats are pull-up providing a snag-free caprail.

Rebate of 226 Cayman
Rebate 226 Cayman running shot

Elevated casting decks fore and aft provide ample room for working gear.

Rebate of 226 Cayman
Rebate 226 Cayman aft deck

The aft deck wraps around the engine well and the diamond-patterned non-skid deck is easy to keep clean.

Rebate of 226 Cayman
Rebate 226 Cayman forward casting deck

The forward casting deck extends well aft allowing plenty of room to the sides. This is a particularly good feature when drift-fishing. She presents her whole side to the drift.

Caprails are 9" (22.8 cm) wide, which makes a comfortable stepping point for boarding. The foredeck measures 4'6" (1.4 m) from the bow to the top of the steps, and 6' (1.8 m) across. As with the stern deck, all hardware is flush-mounted creating a smooth platform. The aft deck measures 8'1" (2.5 m) across.

Robalo 226 Cayman diamond non skid

Here's a close-up of the diamond non-skid. It's easy to see how dirt won't get caught in the nooks and crannies like the recessed style of non-skid. Notice how the drink holder doubles as a rod holder.

Three 30-gallon (113.6 L) livewells all have the usual features of being tinted blue and having rounded edges to reduce the shock effect on the live bait. These also have dividers to separate bait and, since they are all insulated, they can all be used as fish lockers, too.

Robalo 226 Cayman livewells

In the aft deck are two livewells, each measuring 30-gallons (113.6 L).

Robalo 226 Cayman livewell divider

A removable divider for each livewell separates baits for when the day calls for different types of fishing.

Storage

As with any boat, storage is of paramount concern and having to stow items in places that are better suited for other items just won't do. For example, where we typically see anchors stowed in a compartment fitted for rod storage, we always roll our eyes. Here the storage solutions start with the anchor housed in a dedicated locker at the front of the forward casting deck. It's secured with anchor keepers and the compartment is self-draining overboard.

Robalo 226 Cayman anchor locker

The anchor locker is at the front of the forward casting deck and anchor keepers to either side hold it secure.

As for rod storage, there's the usual racks under the gunwales, but what's unusual here is that the rods slide into tubes so that the eyes don't get caught on any of the wiring behind the gunwales. For secure storage, there are the two compartments at the bow. The port compartment holds 5 rods while the starboard holds 6, and of course, both are lockable. Also, these compartments have hatches that are hinged from the front, which makes for easier access from the sides, as when the boat is still on the trailer.

Robalo 226 Cayman rod lockers

Rods get stored in lockers to the sides of the forward casting deck. Both are lockable.

All the way to the back of the aft casting deck, and to the port side, is a dedicated spot holding every boater's best friend, the 5-gallon (18.9 L) bucket. This is not only a convenient thing to drop stuff into, but as this is a bay boat, the cast-netters will love this feature. What's more, it's hinged from the right side so it can be accessed easily, while the 226 Cayman is still on the trailer.

Robalo 226 Cayman bucket

Here's something every fishing boat should have... a space for the 5-gallon bucket.

Robalo 226 Cayman bucket

With the hatch opening inward it's easy to reach the bucket in storage even while the 226 Cayman is on the trailer.

Additional fishing options include a trolling motor package which includes a battery charger and a dual battery hookup (\$1,935). For those jaunts into shallow water without having to mess with the trim, we'd recommend the adjustable jack plate (\$1,356).

Cruise-ability

We've said time and again that these Caymans are well suited for handling both calm conditions in the flats and coastal chop outside protected inlets. With a 15-degree deadrise, the hull provides a good compromise between shallow draft and a sea kindly ride. In addition, she has good freeboard with a narrow entry coupled with a wide flared bow, all of which provide a dry ride.

Robalo 226 Cayman wide flare

With a wide flare and deep-V, the 226 Cayman ensures a dry ride when operating in a chop.

Robalo 226 Cayman deadrise

With a 15-degree deadrise, the 226 Cayman offers a good mixture of offshore performance and a 12" (30.5 cm) draft.

The 226 Cayman also has Robalo's "Extended V-Plane" hull which our tests have shown provide quicker times to plane, more flotation for larger engines, and better stabilization when walking about the boat. That last feature is especially important when there's a casting deck at the stern. As we walked back and forth across the deck, the 226 remained rock solid.

Robalo 226 Cayman hull

With the extended V-plane hull the running surface comes well aft of the transom, 14" (36 cm) in this case. These act like molded trim tabs and offer the same advantages.

Family-Friendly

It's not just the fishermen that will appreciate all that the 226 Cayman has to offer. Families will enjoy her just as much. Forward of the center console is the typical seat. This is attached to a door at the front providing access into the console and an optional Porta-Potti (\$121) goes a long way towards keeping the peace in any family. Interior headroom is 4'9" (1.4 m) and the aft bulkhead is exposed to the wiring and conduits under the helm. While this may make for easy access to the back of the dash for installations and the like, we'd still like to see it covered up for safety.

Robalo 226 Cayman head

Having the head access in the front, instead of the side of the console, makes for an easier entry, and a safer one when offshore.

At the stern, a comfortable seat is hidden in the front of the casting deck. The 28" (71 cm) high seatback flips up to deploy the seat measuring 42" (107 cm) across. This makes a great place to ride from and the wind is well blocked from the console just ahead.

Robalo 226 Cayman rumbleseat

Here's a convenient place to ride around in. The cooler just ahead is not only close by but makes a nice footrest.

Helm

The helm got plenty of thought in its implementation, but the same is true for the rest of the Robalo line as this version is instantly familiar to anyone that has spent time around the Robalo lineup. It starts with the windshield, which is one single piece, curved but producing no distortion at the edges. It's mounted to the top of the console, sitting in a track. This is preferred over the usual, and easier, method of screwing the windshield to the sides of the console. When we see that we always see dirt gathered in the edges between the plexi and the console, plus it makes an easy point for the glass to crack at the screw heads.

Robalo 226 Cayman windshield

The curved windshield is mounted to the top of the console rather than the sides. To either side of the compass are bins to hold stuff and each is padded and self-draining.

At the top of the console there is a center-mounted compass with two storage bins, one to either side. Each of these bins is padded at the bottom to protect sensitive gear that may be dropped in. They are also self-draining so inclement weather isn't going to cause puddling. The cubby to port also has a 12V power socket, convenient for charging cell phones or powering a portable spotlight. The panel has twin rows of stainless toggle switches at the sides and these aren't subject to UV degradation the way plastic ones are. A stereo remote is to port if the stereo option is selected (\$278). A pair of Yamaha digital gauges (or Mercury SmartCraft gauges, as the case may be) are to the right of the panel and in the center is open space for a Garmin 70S moving map display (\$1,394). Our test boat had the upgraded stainless wheel with steering knob (\$75).

Robalo 226 Cayman helm

The helm is well laid out and instantly recognizable to anyone that has spent time around the Robalo line.

Below, there's an open storage space with a lip to hold items in place. Next to that is an enclosed compartment, which houses the battery switch and a small storage space directly adjacent. Further below is a molded footrest.

Robalo 226 Cayman leaning post

The boat comes standard with a deluxe leaning post that includes a backrest and a 54-quart (51 L) removable cooler. Our test boat had the upgraded version (\$653) that included 4 rod holders.

Hardtop

Our test boat had the optional hardtop (\$5,744) that was loaded with features. It had powder-coated rails that were elongated for easier gripping. The forward supports blended into the console itself. Spreader lights were forward and aft. An electronics box was overhead and the cover is held open with friction hinges. Behind, four rocket launcher style rod holders made for adding to the spread that the 226 Cayman could present to the fish. Underneath was treated with blue gel coat to color match the hull (\$506).

Robalo 226 Cayman fiberglass hardtop

Robalo decided to forgo the stepping-stones of offering an optional canvas T-top with an upgrade to a fiberglass hardtop and went straight to the classier version.

Pricing and Observations

The Robalo 226 Cayman comes with a “no nonsense, no haggle” price of \$38,295 with base 150-hp Yamaha and trailer.

Robalo 226 Cayman prices

Robalo 226 Cayman underwater lights

Underwater lights are the type of option that not only looks good but does an amazing job at drawing in the fish.

With so much utility and crossover capability it's no wonder that this is such a well thought out boat. She's a joy to drive and while we didn't get to fish on her, fishermen tested her and wholeheartedly approved.