

Monterey 253 Explorer Sport

Brief Summary

The 253 Explorer Sport is the largest deck boat offering from Monterey. This is the first hull for their new design of New Generation Explorer Deck Boats. She has plenty of creature comforts and is a very versatile family deck boat.

Price

Base Price \$39233.00

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

- Walk-thru transom makes boarding safe and easy
- All the seating is very plush and the helm and companion seats are adjustable
- Handy ski locker keeps the decks clear when they aren't being used
- A large head is built into this hull

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
600	3.3	2.9	0.5	6.6	5.74	356	310	65
1000	6.9	6	1.1	6.23	5.42	336	292	74
1500	9.2	8	2.4	3.83	3.33	207	180	83
2000	11	9.6	4.8	2.29	1.99	124	108	86
2500	18.9	16.4	6.5	2.9	2.52	157	136	90
3000	26.1	22.7	9.3	2.81	2.44	152	132	90

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
3500	33.2	28.8	11.6	2.87	2.5	155	135	92
4000	38.9	33.8	16.2	2.41	2.09	130	113	92
4500	43	37.4	20.2	2.13	1.86	115	100	94
4700	46.9	40.7	24.9	1.88	1.64	102	88	97

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

Monterey253Chart.jpg

Specifications

Length Overall	26' 5" w/swim platform
BEAM	8' 6"
Dry Weight	4,500 lbs.
Tested Weight	
Draft	19"
Draft Up	
Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	19 deg.
Max Headroom	~

Bridge Clearance	~
Weight Capacity	
Person Capacity	
Fuel Capacity	60 gal.
Water Capacity	18 gal.
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	
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	5.1 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	1.95:1
Props	F5 Dual stainless steel
Load	2 persons, 7/8 fuel, no water, min. gear
Climate	88 deg., 75% humid.; wind: 10-15 knots; seas: minimal chop

Monterey 253 Explorer Sport

Test by Capt. Bob Smith

Monterey has built boats with lots of extras for years now. Recently I had the pleasure of meeting with Lou Vazquez, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, to see what Monterey has to offer for the 2003 lineup. Their ads speak of “Monterey, more than a boat...a way of life” and “when Luxury is a necessity.” I have heard many salespeople use lines such as this, so Lou wasn’t surprised to hear us ask him to show us how they lived up to this and his claim of safety being a driving force in Monterey boats.

The new 253 Explorer Sport was so new, I passed it on the highway on my way from Tampa to test it in Sanibel, FL. With a deadline to meet and shrink-wrap to remove, I was anxious to get going. Lou used this time to tell me a little about the company and how they put more into the boat than just time and fiberglass. Thus far, this is the largest deck boat offering from Monterey. Lou says they are going to roll out more models soon and this is just the first hull for their new design of New Generation Explorer Deck Boats. I tested the boat with Capt. Jack (that’s not him in the video!). We zipped up and down the intercoastal past the Sanibel Gateway in light chop along with several other boats in the waterway. The Explorer handled the

chop and the wake from all sizes of boats slipping past us. She maneuvered with ease. Tight turns were sure-footed with little loss of speed or cavitation at speed. Slow maneuvers were equally predictable, even with a strong outgoing current. The only problem I had was slipping past a piling and getting alongside the docks with a swirling current and lots of spectators. Fortunately this boat handled it all well and Lou's handy dock staff helped with lines to get her safely alongside without banging into one of his other models. Monterey is paying a lot of attention to adding what the customer is wanting in their boats. Now keep in mind, this is a boat under constant revision at this point and some of what I talk about may end up being improved, removed or changed as the reports come in from owners. That is normal for a brand new design. The walk-thru transom makes boarding safe and easy. They are pulling from the Mediterranean styling with their Sun Island. This makes a spacious pad for soaking up the sun while on the hook. There is a remote control panel for the stereo at the Island that is handy. This island top rises to give you access to the power plant. The top of the bench seat in front of the island flips down and out to give you even more access to the power plant. Now that is clever. Now I am not small by any measure, but when I try to get into engine compartments of most boats, I feel like King Kong trying to board the elevator in the Empire State Building. I hope some of the other builders take a good look at what Monterey did and make more room for engine service. My test model had a wet bar for serving your guests while enjoying the waterways. There are two large cooler spaces to keep plenty of sandwiches and beverages chilled just right. All the seating is very plush and the helm and companion seats are adjustable. The walk-thru windshield uses a polyboard panel rather than a canvas cover to shield you underway. A handy ski locker keeps the decks clear when they aren't being used. The bow cushions latch down. Now you don't have to keep stopping to snap the cushions back down every few minutes underway. How many times have you wanted to board the boat from a long swim only to realize you are at the wrong end when you get there? Monterey puts a boarding ladder up front as well to give you a break and keeps you away from the sharp blades of the props. You still shouldn't be running the engine when people are boarding. There is plenty of storage throughout. For the family convenience, a large head is built into this hull, certainly a plus for a long day on the water. She gets on plane quickly at just 5.1 seconds with a Volvo 320hp 5.7 Gxi. She is at 30 mph in just over 7 seconds. At 3000 rpm, she consumes just over 9 gallons per hour and produces about 26 mph. I was able to produce a top speed of around 47 mph at 4700 rpm, although I did briefly see more than 5000 rpm but didn't get a good speed read. Volvo was also on site doing some testing and they did get 49 mph and 5030 rpm. She certainly is fast enough to satisfy most every boating task a family may challenge her with. This new design from Monterey certainly warrants a closer look from you if you are thinking of buying a deck boat. She has plenty of creature comforts and is a very versatile family deckboat.