

Sea Ray 450 Sundancer (2013-)

Brief Summary

Every year Sea Ray invites owners to come and visit their boat’s birthplace and discuss their models. The discussions focused on what they like, what they don't like, and what they would like to see improved upon. In this manner, Sea Ray is able to keep improving the design for a better product. This Sea Ray 450 Sundancer is a product of that process.

Price

Base Price\$808892.00

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

- Doublewide helm and companion seats with flip-up thigh-rise bolsters
- Cockpit wet bar with sink and faucet, solid-surface countertop, stainless-steel handrail, trash receptacle, and storage cabinet
- U-Shaped aft seating with storage
- Electrically actuated engine compartment hatch
- Standard SmartCraft Instrumentation and VesselView
- 12V Sony AM/FM stereo with single CD player
- Standard VHF radio
- Media room with theater seating, accent lights and 40" flatscreen TV with remote DVD player and Bose Sound System
- Separate shower and head for master stateroom
- Ultraleather standard on all interior seating
- Large integral/extended swim platform with heavy-duty stainless steel swim ladder
- Standard generator with sound shield
- Fiberglass hardtop with full enclosure

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
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600	5	4.3	1.2	4.17	3.62	1095	952	N/A
1000	8.6	7.5	3.2	2.69	2.34	706	614	N/A
1500	10.5	9.1	9.4	1.11	0.97	292	254	N/A
2000	16.3	14.2	21.5	0.76	0.66	199	173	N/A
2300	21.7	18.9	26.8	0.81	0.7	213	185	N/A
2500	25.9	22.5	27.8	0.93	0.81	244	212	N/A
2800	32.5	28.2	35.5	0.91	0.79	240	209	N/A
3000	35.9	31.2	39.4	0.91	0.79	239	208	N/A
3040	36.8	32	40.3	0.91	0.79	240	209	N/A

[View the test results in metric units](#)
[searay450sundance11_chart.jpg](#)

Specifications

Length Overall	45' 5" / 13.84 m
BEAM	13' 2" 4.01 m
Dry Weight	24,362 lbs. 11,050 kg
Tested Weight	
Draft	46" 117 cm
Draft Up	

Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	19 deg.
Max Headroom	N/A
Bridge Clearance	N/A
Weight Capacity	
Person Capacity	
Fuel Capacity	292 gal. 1,106 kg
Water Capacity	70 gal. 265 L
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	11.9 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	2.00 : 1
Props	Z15/Z14
Load	2 persons, 1/2 fuel, full water, minimal gear
Climate	67 deg.; 45% humidity; wind: 0-11 mph; seas; calm

Captain's Report by Captain Steve

Sea Ray 450 Sundancer

Boaters who think that this is an upgrade of the 430 Sundancer may be surprised to find that that is not the case.

Mission Statement

Sea Ray says that they created the 450 Sundancer to provide a cruiser with an enclosed bridge with a large, retractable sunroof while also incorporating all the key features that have taken their express cruisers to the next level. Features such as luxury accommodations and a unique room for enjoying some good movies at the end of the day.

Distinguishing Features

Some of the areas of the 450 Sundancer that set her apart from the crowd include the following:

Axius Joystick Is Standard.

Recognizing that one of the most prohibitive factors in owning a yacht of this size is that the owner/operator has apprehensions about whether it can be handled without embarrassment at the dock. Joystick controls are here to stay and with good reason. On the 450 the Axius joystick controlling the standard Bravo III drives is standard.

Sterndrives or Pod Drives.

Very few builders offer consumers a choice of basic propulsion systems, but with the Sea Ray 450 you can select MerCruiser sterndrives or ZF pod drives. The pod drives cost more and weigh more but are more likely to be specified if diesel engines are installed.

Gas or Diesel Power.

Many builders in this size and class of boat only install diesel engines. Because the Sea Ray 450 is at the light end of the weight spectrum in this size range it offers consumers a choice.

Relatively Light Displacement.

Because the 450 has one of the most narrow beams in this size range the builder is able to keep weight down. These two basic aspects of the boat make it faster and more fuel efficient, all other things being equal. The optional pod drives add about 2,843 lbs. (1,292 kgs.) which puts the 450 into the mid range in displacement compared to other boats in class.

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Media Room.

I may be a bit old-fashioned, but I can't think of one time that I've watched TV on a boat, or even wanted to. But others, including my daughter, would vehemently disagree. This new 450 Sundancer not only has TVs in the stateroom, and in the cockpit, but an entire room dedicated to the enhancement of audio/video entertainment in the mid-cabin/media room.

Extendable Master Berth.

The foot of the berth retracts to allow for more room in this stateroom for dressing and moving about. When it's time to turn in, extend the berth to its full length, and you can even bring the head of the berth up to lounge position should you find it necessary to enjoy the 22" (55.9 cm) flatscreen TV with DVD player -- or to read!

Four Forward-facing Bridge Deck Seats.

Not only is there a double wide helm seat, but double wide companion seats as well. This is a rarity in any class boat and not only allows for more people to enjoy the ride from the captain's vantage point, it ensures is that there are more eyes looking forward.

CO-safe Gas Generator.

We add this item to our "distinguishing features list" because it is so important that only such a gas generator should be installed and Sea Ray quite correctly gives consumers no choice even though it is more expensive than a standard gas generator. The standard unit is a 10 kW Kohler.

Most Notable Departure

The biggest standout feature of this 450 Sundancer is by far, the mid-stateroom. Traditionally, in this size boat mid-cabins are only good for sleeping or sitting. On most boats you can convert the berth into a sofa and back again but not much else.

Kids will love it.

Sea Ray has turned this mid cabin into a *media room* with a large screen TV, great Bose sound system, and even two coffee tables/ottomans for snacks and drinks. Now the Sea Ray 450 has become a weekend cottage for the family or friends. Kids will love it...and parents will love that the kids love it. So while the adults take the tender to a shore side bistro they can leave the kids aboard to watch the large-screen TV. (Let 'em eat hot dogs!)

Adults, too.

Or, in another scenario, the weather has you holed up in that remote anchorage for another evening and sitting on deck is out of the question. Enter the media room for the whole family. And lest you be worried that you'll be losing the ability to bring another couple to the cruise with you, fear not, the sofa converts to a double bed easily enough and the cabin has a privacy curtain.

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Note the head to starboard and shower to port. No more "wet head". The large media room is created by being able to move the engine room bulkhead aft.

The Salon

Ambient light from the oversized hull windows and skylight gives a natural glow to the entire salon. All the cabinet work inside is made at Sea Ray's Cape Canaveral Woodworking and Finishing Facility. The sofa is covered in UltraLeather, which most people prefer to the real thing. The standard salon deck is covered in 55-oz. Stainmaster BFC nylon carpet with DuPont's Teflon repel coating. Hardwood decking is optional and I recommend it. The sofa makes into a double bed and Sea Ray is a master at making the conversion user-friendly. There is storage in the deck which I like because there is never enough storage space on a boat. There is also storage behind the sofa. A high-gloss wooden dining table is standard and there is a place dedicated to store it when its time to get it out of the way. The 450 comes standard with 24,000 BTUs of AC / heat which is zone controlled in the cabins.

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Under the sleek exterior of the 450 lies a classic-contemporary interior, with handsome cabinetry from Sea Ray's Woodworking & Finishing facility.

The Galley

The 450 has a well-equipped galley. It has a two-burner electric stove top, a below the counter refrigerator/freezer, microwave, large sink and even a standard coffee maker. There is a dedicated trash container, storage for pots and pans and flat wear below the counter, and cabinets above for dry goods,

plates, glasses and mugs. Best of all, perhaps, is the large amount of counter space for food prep.

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The Master Stateroom

The forward stateroom features a full-size island V-berth with an electric extension, to provide more room when changing. This design innovation provides the most utility in a small space and I'm glad to see that Sea Ray uses it. The berth is made of memory foam with a Posturepedic backrest. The cabin sole is hardwood as standard. A Shoji-style sliding door for privacy is also standard. I like Shoji screens because not only are they lightweight, but they also let light in the forward cabin. Since it is a pocket door it makes movement easier when the door is opened and closed. The main cabin houses a spacious galley with stainless-steel appliances and loads of storage along the port side; to starboard, a dining area with folding table easily coverts to a sleeper. The Sony stereo located here comes fully outfitted with an iPod docking station, CD player, Sirius satellite receiver, amplifier, subwoofer, and more.

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Wet Head Be Gone.

Sick of those wet heads that combine the shower, toilet, and sink into one compartment (aka wet head) that gets soaked and can get moldy? Yeah, me too. And so, apparently, are the owner focus groups at Sea Ray. Now they have the single head to starboard and the shower to port. By splitting up the head, two people can use the facilities at the same time, which makes for more efficiency all around

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This is a comfortable helm with a double-wide seat. We'd change the opening front vents to side vents. We like the chartplotter directly in front of the companion. We'd move the compass a few inches to starboard to line up with the hub of the steering wheel. Throttle/gear levers are horizontal (good), horn toggle is red (good), dash is anti-glare gray (good), windshield defroster in front of skipper (very good).

The Bridge Deck

At the helm, not only will the joystick controls add 10 years of experience to any newbie skipper, a comfortable and functional helm station awaits. The helm seat is a fully adjustable double- wide seat with flip-up bolster, *and* there is a double-wide companion seat to port.

Noteworthy seating.

The latter attribute is something that I feel is important, and most builders do not build a bridge deck this way because they need headroom below to get into the mid-cabin. Therefore, they build in a "lounger" bench seat that faces to starboard. As far as I'm concerned, this is letting the design tail wag the dog. When considering boats in this class, notice whether there is a companion seat facing forward on the port side of the boat or a fore and aft bench seat with a recliner forward. Full marks to Sea Ray for this design.

Electronics.

The standard electronics package includes VHF, autopilot, and the SmartCraft Vessel View monitoring system. Options include a Raymarine package with E120 monitors combining radar, GPS, chart plotter, and fishfinder. A fiberglass hardtop with a huge retractable sunroof covers the cockpit and you can add optional air conditioning and/or heat to the cockpit. One thing I don't care for is the twin remote-controlled opening panels in the windshield. While they allow for more air to flow through, there's a lot of blocked visibility, and the same function can be had by opening less obtrusive side windows, or having those vents at the top of the windshield on the centerline.

The Cockpit

Leisure possibilities abound at the large, U-shaped cockpit lounge with removable table. The aft-most backrest of this seat is split, and the two sections pivot open to create an extension of the sun pad, which has abundant storage below for lines, fenders, and other necessary items. On the starboard side of the cockpit, a big, L-shaped wet bar with icemaker will keep everyone hydrated, and owners can choose to add an optional grill, refrigerator to create an "outdoor galley" atmosphere. A removable 19" flat screen TV is optional.

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Not only is there a comfortable sun lounge at the stern, but a clever jump seat as well. We like the wide swim platform. We'd add pop-up cleats port and starboard on the swim platform to tie up tenders and water toys.

Specifications

The Sea Ray 450 Sundancer has a LOA (including the swim platform extension) of 45'5" (13.85 m), a beam of 13'2" (4.01 m), and a draft of 46" (117 cm) with Zeus pods, and 38" (97 cm) with Bravo III drives controlled by Axis. Her dry weight (with sterndrives) is 24,362 lbs. (11,050 kgs.) or (with Zeus pods) 27,205 lbs. (12,340 kgs.). Fuel capacity is 292 gallons (1,106 L), and water capacity is 70 gallons (265 L).

Propulsion

The standard power in the 450 is MerCruiser 8.2 L MAG ECT 375-hp gas engines drive through Bravo III drives. As noted, the Axis joystick system is standard. Optional gas engines are 8.2s putting out 425-hp. Optional are twin diesels with Zeus pod drives, either the Cummins MerCruiser QSB 280 or QSB 480, developing 380-hp and 480-hp, respectively.

Observations

This is just scratching the surface of the long list of features, both standard and optional, on the 450 Sundancer. She's a good example of Sea Ray taking a tried and true design, and making enough improvements and refinements that add utility and joy to the boat. Because the 450 has a single head, I think she makes an excellent family cruiser for extended cruising or just long weekends. Kids will love the large swim platform as there seems to be nothing quite as much fun as jumping off a boat into the water. In this regard the helm and companion seats can have four family members participating in the piloting and navigation and having fun working together. The large cockpit makes the 450 ideal for a day boat for entertaining. With the wet bar and icemaker, all that needs to be added is a charcoal grill on the transom for an evening cookout. And don't forget, while the adults are topside, the kids can be in the media room watching Batman. The hard decision, I think, with this boat might possibly be in whether to select the gas or diesel propulsion package. For people staying close to home and who are trying to keep the price of the boat down, obviously the gas option deserves serious consideration. Those planning long trips to the islands or annual north/south migrations should consider the diesel option for extended range, if nothing else.