

## Boat Reviews

# Boats that Fish Inshore Bays and Blue Water

By Chris Woodward June 19, 2017

## Grady-White 251 Coastal Explorer



SPECS: LOA: 24 ft. 7 in. • Beam: 8 ft. 6 in. • Transom Deadrise: 16 deg. • Draft: 1 ft. 2 in.  
 Dry Weight: 3,550 lb. (w/o engine) • Max Power: 300 hp (w/ Yamaha F250)

*Courtesy of Grady-White Boats*

The aft cockpit depth of Grady's 251 Coastal Explorer — an evolutionary design, introduced in 2014 — measures 20 inches. The company broke the mold in many areas with this new and innovative setup.

“This was a special new entry in the inshore/nearshore market for us, and we felt it was key to have the SeaV2 [hull] design performance characteristics yet add the shallower draft (14 inches) to make this model a unique boat,” says Shelley Tubaugh, vice president of marketing. “By keeping the sharp entry, signature bow flare and continuously variable vee of the hull bottom, we were able to create a

flare and continuously variable vee of the hull bottom, we were able to create a truly flexible boat that could venture into the ocean more than others in its class.”



Grady’s 251 Coastal Explorer features a sharp entry with some significant bow flare, while keeping fore and aft decks to appeal to inshore anglers.

*Courtesy of Grady-White Boats*

Aside from the relatively shallow draft, the 251 comes with casting platforms fore and aft that convert to comfortable seating. Grady offers optional trolling-motor and shallow-water-anchor rigging. The bow boarding ladder, while geared toward beachgoers, also creates a convenient entry and exit for wading or surf fishing.

To enhance offshore safety, Grady’s builds include ample foam flotation and overboard-draining insulated boxes so the bilge doesn’t continually fill. The 251 CE accommodates the standard aft 12¾-gallon livewell and an optional 25-gallon well in the helm seating unit. Factory testing shows a top speed of about 50 mph with the max 300 hp outboard; more than enough oomph to eat up water on a remote, though nearshore, run.

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## SPORT FISHING

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