

Let's face it:
Weekends
are too
damn
short.



Riva Vertigo 63



Tiara 5800 Sovran

You want to get out on the water with friends, so you need a yacht with plenty of entertainment space on deck. It needs overnight accommodations for at least two couples and comfortable living space that's protected from the elements for those inevitable rainy days. And, most important, you need a boat that can get you somewhere new and back in a mere 48 hours. What you need, in other words, is an express cruiser.

By no means exhaustive, the following round-up will give you a taste of what's out there. From the 43-foot Sunseeker Superhawk to the 75-foot Lazzara, express cruisers come in a variety of shapes and sizes. What they all provide is a good time while the party lasts.

Cruisers 460

The Cruisers 460 has been refined again for 2008. The cockpit has had an extensive upgrade and cold beverages are now within arm's reach, thanks to a small refrigerator and icemaker. Down below, a rich cherry interior is standard and the master has full standing headroom as well as a head and shower. Twin engines are available in a range of V-drive options and with the stepped-chine hull design, you can get away from it all quickly. www.cruisersyachts.com

Sea Ray 48 Sundancer

Sea Ray does it again with a luxurious express cruiser that's all about entertaining. A large aft area features plenty of U-shaped seating and,



Fairline 52

of course, a wet bar. A hardtop with opening hatches, a swim platform with concealed ladder and an optional recessed sundeck pad keep the party on deck. Belowdecks, though, Ultraleather seating, satin nickel-finished fixtures and an optional washer/dryer combo make this a serene home-away-from-home. Factor in Sea Ray's well-deserved reputation for solid building and a patented underwater exhaust system that keeps the ride quiet and you may have a hard time returning to life on land. www.searay.com

Tiara 5800 Sovran

This is Tiara's flagship and the largest boat in their line, so they've spared no expense in doing it right ("Glittering Tiara," December, 2007). The upper level deck features an aft glass enclosure that opens all the way up to create a spacious saloon. The swim platform is huge. And above the helm, there's a retractable sunroof and a sliding glass window that welcome sunshine and fresh air. The tri-level deck plan

hosts a well-appointed galley with two elegant staterooms. But the three Volvo Penta IPS drives that top out at 32 knots and above will really make your heart sing. www.tiarayachts.com

Fountain 48 Express Cruiser

If speed's your thing, you can't beat the world-record setting Fountain 48. The recommended triple 480 Cummins with Twin Disc surface drives get you to exotic destinations fast. There's plenty of open lounging area on deck for the sun-worshippers but a hardtop offers shelter for less than perfect weather. Accommodations below have plenty of headroom and the interior is spacious with two staterooms, two heads and a well-appointed saloon. There are plenty of luxurious touches including an optional teak sole, wood veneers and Corian countertop. All at 62-plus mph. www.fountainpowerboats.com

Itama 55

A remarkably distinctive yacht, the Itama 55 has a high bow and slender stern for top sea performance and streamlined good looks. Itama has put a lot of effort into maximizing space—both above deck and below. Simple but handsome, the sporty exterior is complimented by the ultra-modern styling of the interior—it's a radical departure from the usual, traditional style, but surprisingly appropriate and very luxe. With three cabins, three heads and twin 1,100-hp engines that hit 37 knots, it's hard to find anything unlikeable about the Itama 55. www.itama-yacht.com

Astondoa 53 Open

Astondoa's been building yachts since 1916 and it shows. The 53 Open features a host of well-thought out details—from a passarelle that levels and stows itself at the push of a button to a galley that's mostly hidden. An expansive afterdeck is set up for open-air lounging, whether you prefer to recline on the sun bed or enjoy a DVD on



Eastbay 49 SX