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The hull has plenty of forward flare.



Beneteau GT 32

Greg Copp takes a look at this compact but practical express cruiser from Beneteau.

Built as a compact but practical express cruiser, Beneteau's new Gran Turismo 32 is based on the deck plan of the Beneteau Flyer 10. However, the construction is in keeping with the design ethos of this company's Gran Turismo line. Consequently, there is an effective combination of fashion and form, as is evident from a quick glance at the foredeck design. Beneteau designers set out to create a boat that combines the spirit of a large open boat with that of a spacious comfortable hardtop.

Considering this boat is just 32ft long, they have done a good job. This has been achieved by pushing out the wheelhouse to the limit of the boat's beam, and installing huge windows, an unbroken one-piece windscreen and an open but covered cockpit area aft. What really enhances this open-boat feel is the triple sunbed on the foredeck,

accessed via a wide sunken port-side walkway. The foredeck area is safely enclosed by sturdy-looking guard rails. It uses the same principle as the wheelhouse - maximising space for creature comfort - and it still has enough room for a large anchor/

windlass locker. Needless to say, light and ventilation are a priority on board, particularly under the hardtop. It has plenty of headroom and will appeal to anyone who loves an open boat. There is good interaction



Light upholstery works well in enhancing the feeling of internal space.



PECIFICATIONS

- OA:** 9.95m (32ft 08in)
- eam:** 3.35m (10ft 12in)
- raught:** 1.30m (4ft 03in)
- ir draught:** 7.22m (23ft 08in)
- isplacement light:** 5.8 tonnes (sterndriven version); 5.4 tonnes (outboard version)
- erths:** 4
- CD:** B8/C11

CONTACT
www.beneteau.com



Clockwise: 1. The mid cabin has a full-size across-beam double berth. 2. The forecabin is great for a 32-footer. 3. The open aft section of the wheelhouse gives an open-boat feel. 4. The foredeck is perfect for sun lovers.

between the various spaces in this upper deck area, particularly the capably equipped galley, which sits behind the double helm position. The C-shaped seating arrangement sits under the coachroof overhang, and its novel shape enables six to sit at a squeeze and four to sprawl in comfort. The dinette and galley complement each other well, and this works simply because of the wide-open wheelhouse design. If they had opted for a fully enclosed coupé-style boat, then side decks would have been necessary, and the wheelhouse would have been a cosy-couple design. The flip side is that you will need to zip in the cockpit cover when the weather turns cold, but with a modern efficient central heating system you can have the best of both worlds.

This boat has two double berths, and a credible shower space with an independent heads compartment. With two separate cabins, overnighting is a realistic comfortable option for more than just a couple. With the light coming

from the long hull windows, the main and the mid cabins enjoy an enhanced feeling of internal space. The internal joinery is walnut veneer, which works well with the light upholstery.

The GT 32 uses Beneteau's Airstep hull, which with a reasonable degree of forward flare should provide a

dry ride. Rated to take 600hp, which is likely to be two of Suzuki's new twin-prop DF300Bs, this boat should reach 35 knots. It can be equipped with a joystick, a Zipwake trim tab system and two Garmin 12in screens. Last but not least, the Gran Turismo 32 is available with either outboard or sterndrive propulsion. **PBR**

This boat has two double berths, and a credible shower space with an independent heads compartment.

The clean lines of the sterndriven version.

