

Vanquish 26C

A modern-day twist on a classic design. BY HEATHER STEINBERGER



When Capt. Morgan Huntley acquired Vanquish Boats in 2010 and relocated the company to Newport, Rhode Island, he had a very specific mission in mind: To hand-craft contemporary day yachts that boast a classic look, yet incorporate state-of-the-art technology.

Looking at the new center-console version of the Vanquish 26, it's clear that Huntley's team has a winning formula.

"The original idea was to get back to classic-style inboard propulsion," Huntley said. "We take our inspiration from a long time ago to build something high-end with a classic look, but we use modern stuff!"

A graduate of the Landing School in Arundale, Maine, and the Newport-based International Yacht Restoration School, Huntley has more than 15 years of boatbuilding experience. Prior to his acquisition of Vanquish, he held positions with such renowned companies as Hinckley Yachts and Outerlimits Offshore Powerboats. He also holds a 50-ton U.S. Coast Guard Master's license.

Quite simply, he knows boats.

And he's truly enthusiastic about the new Vanquish 26C, which came from the drafting board of acclaimed yacht designer—and Lake Erie native—Doug Zurn.

"We knew we had a proven hull, which performs in a great, unusual manner," he enthused. "With the weight in the middle, it's low and stable.

"Underneath the curves and the chrome, there's a little sports car in there!"

Like all Vanquish Boats, the 26 is built by hand, one at a time.

"Here in Newport, we pull from an incredible pool of craftsmen, which guarantees an exceptional level of construction," Huntley said. "And because we are a Northeast yachting hub, there's an amazing exchange of ideas."

The 26C can seat up to 10 adults, courtesy of her U-shaped, dodger-sheltered forward seating. Her storage areas include a bow settee compartment, convenient ski locker and an additional compartment stashed neatly beneath the captain's seat.

Owners who plan to spend long days on the water can add a DC cooler for beverages and snacks, while anglers can add rod holders and an easily accessible bait well.

The 26C has a no-wood, non-rot laminate design. Her key features include a self-bailing cockpit, Plexiglas windshield, Edson steering wheel with hydraulic steering, electric engine-hatch lifts, choice of either rugged marine-grade vinyl or Sunbrella colors and patterns for the interior, and even an American flag with teak staff. Plus, for the 2011 model year, all 26Cs will have head facilities as well.

With a 330-horsepower Crusader 5.7L gas engine and standard equipment, the Vanquish Boats 26C retails for \$125,000. She's also available with a Crusader 6.0L gas engine or a Yanmar diesel.

"The price is reasonable, and people are incredibly excited when they go out for a ride," Huntley commented. "She's beautiful, and she's a lot of fun to drive." ♦

Specifications

LOA: **25'8"**
 Beam: **8'**
 Draft: **19"**
 Weight: **4,200 lbs.**
 Fuel Capacity: **66 gals.**
 Standard Power: **Crusader 5.7 HO MPI 330-hp**

vanquishboats.com