

Chaparral 256 SSX Sport Deck



No ordinary sportboat.

BY TOM THOMPSON

The appointments on the Chaparral 256 SSX Sport Deck are impressive, its comfort and convenience features are exceptional, and once you take it out for a test drive, the performance should seal the deal.

The helm and companion seats are large, comfortable, wraparound swivel buckets with an open back to keep you cool. An L-shaped bench runs along the port side and across the transom. When not used as seating, the back flips down to create a sunpad over the engine compartment. There's a large "trunk" under the aft section of the sunpad. Lift its hinges from the swim platform that's easily accessible through the walkway on the starboard side.

A walk-through windshield leads to the U-shaped bow seating area, which sports surprisingly deep storage below. The cushion in the center removes to create a step up to the bow.

The galley, to starboard, behind the helm seat, has a molded fiberglass sink and an ice chest. Underneath, there's a spot for a removable cooler. A stainless steel grabrail runs the length of the countertop. Chaparral's attention to detail includes drains for all the stainless steel cup holders onboard.

Appearance-wise, the most impressive feature of the 256 SSX is the head compartment, located in the port-side console. Most boats in this size range have a cramped molded fiberglass compartment. On this model, a solid-surface countertop sits on

wood veneer cabinetry, and the stainless steel sink uses a chrome designer fixture. There are even a couple of pockets for magazines next to the toilet paper holder on the back of the door.

Another noteworthy feature is the design of the boarding ladders—the bow has four rungs and the stern three. Both have a grip handle at the top where it attaches to the deck, something every boarding ladder should have.

Chaparral offers nine power options. The MerCruiser and Volvo Penta choices range from 280 to 425 hp. Merc's 5.7L 350 Magnum MPI, rated at 300 hp, will give you a top speed of 48 mph. Volvo Penta's 8.1L GXi, a 420-hp block, will push the boat to 59 mph. The 256 SSX is quick out of the hole while maintaining a flat attitude with precise and tight handling.

Your first impression of the Chaparral 256 SSX Sport Deck is sure to be favorable. After taking a spin through it, that impression is going to last. ↓

Specs

LOA.....	26'5"
Beam.....	8'6"
Draft.....	3'
Weight.....	5,300 lbs.
Fuel capacity.....	80 gals.
Base power.....	Volvo Penta 5.7L Gi MPI Duoprop (280 hp)
Base price.....	\$61,044

chaparralboats.com

