

TEST DRIVE

Sea Ray 29

So you can't decide if you want to go cruising or fishing. You can do both on Sea Ray's latest. **By Capt. John Wooldridge**



SEA RAY 29

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA (W/SWIM PLATFORM)	31'4"
BEAM	10'6"
DRAFT	2'10"
DISP. (DRY)	12,215 LBS.
TRANSOM DEADRISE 21 DEGREES	
FUEL	250 GALS.
WATER	30 GALS.

SEA RAY BOATS
WWW.SEARAY.COM

PRICE (W/TEST POWER):
\$183,922

If your weekends are built around cruising, fishing or a little of both, the new Sea Ray 290 Amberjack has the layout and features to serve you well. This new design has a 10'6" beam that makes possible a wide, unobstructed cockpit and a comfortable, stylish cabin with a well-equipped galley, enclosed stand-up head with VacuFlush MSD and berths for four passengers.

The self-draining cockpit is on a single level, with no steps from the transom to the cabin entrance; this

makes it safer and easier for passengers to get around when the boat is under way. Cockpit seating includes a double bench at the helm, a clever back-to-back portside seat with sliding backrest that converts to a lounge, and an aft bench that folds completely out of the way when fishing is the order of the day. There's plenty of room for the teak-topped bait-prep station—part of an optional fishing package that includes a rounded live well, a stainless sink, extra rod holders, stainless toerails on both sides for security, overhead rod

stowage in the cabin and a seawater washdown fore and aft. The in-transom fish box is insulated and has a drain.

Notable features include standard air conditioning/heating, an AM/FM stereo with six-disc changer, power windshield vent and a helm console with full instrumentation, plus room left over for two multifunction navigation displays.☺



MANY HATS: The Amberjack is for gunkholing and trolling.

PERFORMANCE

TEST POWER: (2) 300-hp MerCruiser 350 MAG MPI Horizon gas engines turning 18" x 16" props through 2.0:1 V-drives.

RPM	KNOTS	GPH	DB-A
1000	4.9	3.0	65
1500	6.6	4.2	68
2000	7.8	7.2	73
2500	8.8	12.4	78
3000	12.7	18.4	82
3500	20.3	22.4	84
4000	24.7	29.0	86
4500	27.8	35.2	88
5000	30.7	45.4	93
5150	31.5	48.0	94

Speeds measured by GPS on the Tennessee River w/two adults aboard, 15 gals. water and 125 gals. fuel. Sound levels measured at the helm in dB-A. Fuel consumption measured by the MerCruiser electronic engine management system.

MORE CHOICES: Sea Ray offers twin gas or diesel engines from 260 hp to 300 hp, with Bravo Three sterndrives, as well as the twin 300-hp gas V-drives on our test boat. MerCruiser's DTS digital controls gave me a consistent feel and precise control of speed for every application (trolling, docking, single-lever synchronization).

UNDER WAY: The 21-degree deep-V hull made short work of the large boat wakes I crossed at high cruising speeds. Turns were nicely banked but always predictable. The large 250-gallon fuel capacity will help cut down on fuel stops and add range—approximately 240 nm at 20 knots/3500 rpm. An actuated lift raises the aft cockpit sole for outstanding access to seacocks and seawater strainers on V-drives.