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EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS

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WELCOME TO THE *YACHTING* EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS. Our staff has evaluated countless vessels, technology, gear and marine-related services during the past 12 months. We've discussed and debated. In the following pages, you'll see the companies, products and initiatives that came out on top of those debates. So, without further ado, here are *Yachting's* Editors' Choice Award winners for 2023.



U-BOAT WORX'S SUPER SUB

U-Boat Worx's Super Sub can hit 8 knots underwater. According to U-Boat Worx, that's 2 knots faster than the top cruising speed of a bottlenose dolphin and 5 knots faster than the average submersible.

Weighing in at a little more than 19,800 pounds, the Super Sub accommodates two passengers and a pilot in what U-Boat Worx describes as "a luxury supercar interior." Thruster capacity comes from lithium-ion batteries. With the four thrusters, the Super Sub can make 30-degree climbs and dives to a depth of almost 1,000 feet beneath the water's surface.

Hydrofoils on the after end of the U-Boat Worx Super Sub help direct the flow of thrust, which allows the pilot to make sharp turns and banks. The sub's overall design, in the shape of a droplet, sprang from the mind of a sub owner. Total use time is reportedly eight hours, with a feature that prevents the sub from exceeding its maximum operating depth.



GRAND BANKS 85 SKYLounge / ADVENTURE AWAITS

● **What We Said** "A timeless exterior design, today's technology, and a hull form penned for seakindliness, efficiency, comfort and performance make the Grand Banks 85 Skylounge a thoroughly modern yacht ready to take adventurous cruisers waypoint-hopping until they feel like stopping. Or not." ● **Next-Level Flagship** This yacht displaces 108,025 pounds, with a 22-plus-foot beam and an air draft of just under 26 feet. It's a formidable cruiser. A vital and influential feature of this yacht is the builder's patented V-warp semidisplacement hull form. It has a fine entry, and the deadrise transitions with notable flare amidships that helps "roll water away" from the hull's surface. Farther aft, the deadrise reduces to 6 to 8 degrees, adding stability and lift, and resulting in a vessel with little to no bow rise when throttling up. And this boat leaves a flat wake. Inside, satin-finish teak warms the salon, while an open plan, 7 feet of headroom and glass in all directions enhances the sense of volume while creating unobstructed ocean vistas. The four-stateroom 85 Skylounge that we got aboard even has a cleverly concealed piano in the master stateroom. ● **Final Thoughts** The Grand Banks 85 Skylounge is a vessel that exponentially expands the notion of what this builder is and what it is becoming.

Cruising at 21 knots with twin 1,000 hp Volvo Penta IPS diesels, the 85 Skylounge has a 972-nautical-mile range.