

Cruisers' newest yacht makes debut

Kent Tempus, OCR Editor 10:17 a.m. CDT July 22, 2015, greenbaypressgazette.com



(Photo: Kent Tempus/Oconto County Reporter)

1 CONNECT 2 TWEETLINKEDINCOMMENTEMAILMORE

The newest and biggest boat produced by Cruisers Yachts in Oconto is being unveiled this week at the company's annual international dealer meeting in Sturgeon Bay.

The 60 Cantius express coupe has "all the latest bells and whistles," said Tony Martens, director of engineering. Cruisers employees made final adjustments to the yacht Friday to prepare it for its cruise across Green Bay for its debut at the show, which started Tuesday.

Dealers from around the country and overseas are brought in each year to see 20 of Cruisers luxury yachts. This year, the 60 Cantius will undoubtedly attract much of the attention.

"This is the largest boat Cruisers has ever built," said Nick Waters, one of the designers.

Development of the yacht started two years ago, with construction of the prototype beginning a year later.

In a departure from its past practice of in-house design, Cruisers worked with a Florida design firm on the 60 Cantius, which has a sleek, sweeping exterior.

"We wanted to have a little outside influence," Waters explained.

There's spacious entertainment area at the bow for sunbathing or lounging, with the main deck covered by a fully enclosed hard top with a patio door. The stern platform has plenty of room for swimmers.

Perhaps the most eye-catching feature of the exterior are the huge hull windows.

"It's like a picture window on either side of the master stateroom," Waters said.

The 60 Cantius has three staterooms.

The helm features flat screen controls and digital switching. Powered by two 950 hp Volvo engines that each run a pod drive. Pod drives, introduced several years ago, combine the transmission, outdrive and propeller and are mounted through the bottom of the craft, according to boats.com. The drive – more efficient than inboard motors – is computer controlled, so the operator can use a joystick to dock, Waters said.

List price for a 60 Cantius? A cool \$2.4 million.

"That's well equipped," Martens noted.

The design impressed boattest.com, which reviewed the yacht based on photos, diagrams and renderings.

"Certainly she is world-class in terms of her design, style and function," the website says. "If the earlier Cantius models are any indication, she will also have the amenities, ergonomics, functionality and fit-and-finish second to none – world-wide. Since Europe has always been an important market for Cruisers Yachts, style is a major consideration."

Cruisers launched its 48 Cantius in 2010, and followed up with 41- and 45- foot models, as well as 430 and 540 Sports Coupe models.

"We've got a lot of 54-foot customers we hope will step up into this boat," Martens said.

The Cantius name honors the late father of K.C. Stock, the CEO of Cruisers' parent company, KCS International, Inc. The company, which also makes Rampage Sports Fishing Yachts, has more than 450 employees.