

Belize 54 Sedan



*Australian luxury
packed with amenities.*

by Capt. Tom Serio



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When I saw the word “Belize” in my e-mail inbox, I thought *Lakeland Boating* was sending me to a place of warm winds, exotic views and comfortable surroundings. A dream trip to an even dreamier locale. To my initial dismay — immediately followed by sheer excitement, I must confess — I discovered I wasn’t going to Central America, but rather on a sea trial of Belize Motoryachts’ new 54 Sedan.

From the moment you step aboard and look around, it’s evident that the 54 Sedan is a “thinking man’s” boat. That is, there are so many cool features and ideas incorporated into the everyday function of this yacht that you know it *had* to be a seasoned team of boaters/builders who dreamt it up.

From Down Under

Belize Motoryachts hails from Australia, a part of the Riviera Yachts business. Started by the former CEO of Riviera Yachts, Wesley Moxey, after he left Riviera in 2008, Belize was formed in 2011. Due to a change in ownership, Moxey was invited to return to Riviera as CEO in 2012, bringing along the Belize brand as part of the deal.

Understand that Moxey originally started with Riviera in 1982 as a shipwright and worked his way up through the production and management ranks to eventually oversee the whole company.

If looks are everything, then the Belize 54 Sedan has you at first glance. Its low, sleek style is accentuated by the angular-arched side windows and swept-back, three-panel windshield. With a brow-like overhang forward, the hardtop’s design fits into the overall appearance. Hull side windows/portholes filter ample amounts of light below deck, and the plumb bow and hard chines deliver wave-piercing performance.

Innovation Abounds

Innovations surround you the moment you board the Belize 54. The teak swim platform actually wraps around the corners of the hull, making it look like part of the yacht and not merely a bolt-on. The center section submerges as a beach or swim-in access.

Noticeable on the teak aft deck is the awning. Supported by a fixed, polished stainless steel frame extending aft from the hardtop overhang, it’s not retractable, and it may take a moment to realize that it’s not a structural part of the yacht, either. It’s a neat option, as it protects from sun and rain and allows for coverage without having the hardtop extended, which would somewhat spoil the yacht’s lovely lines. White LED aft-deck lights and camera can be mounted on the back rail.

Creativeness continues with the dual access walk-throughs from the platform and large aft bench seat with teak hi-lo table. The table is mounted on an angled pedestal, allowing it to move closer to the seat when raised.

I like when things are behind closed doors, but also within easy reach. Cases in point: The recessed, custom vertical fender stowage in the aft covered gunwale lockers, port-side joystick controls (great for backing into a slip), port-side compartment with battery switches, breakers,

and a mounted manual bilge pump (it’s always preferable when battery switches are located outside the engine room).

There’s a port corner bar with two swing-out bar stools and a wet bar unit with Vitro Frigo fridge/freezer draws to starboard. An electric barbeque station with sink is built into the transom unit just above the garage. Access is from the swim platform, which also keeps the hot grill away from curious kids.

Socializing is a large part of yachting, and the folks at Belize have nicely accommodated all of your plans to entertain guests. The large, center salon door slides to starboard and the port aft window/frame flips up with a gas-assisted piston, blending the salon/cockpit areas into one.

With the galley up, situated along the port side of the salon, it’s easy to feed and clean from any point onboard. Not lacking in counter space or appliances, the galley features a Miele microwave convection oven, Schott Ceran four-burner cooktop, stainless steel sink with Grohe Euro faucet, and two Vitro Frigo refrigerator drawers. Corner cabinet drawers are custom fitted for all china, cups, plates and silverware.

Salon seating consists of a plush, L-shaped settee with a center island fold-out table and drawer storage complemented by teak flooring.

See the Light

Well thought out is the management of ambient light. Two large skylights with individual shades in the salon ceiling flood the interior with sunlight or allow one to view the stars from the comfort of the large salon settees. Over the helm station is a large, retractable sunroof with four strip skylight panels, intended to help stream light to the lower level. With the aforementioned windshield and side windows, there’s no loss for taking in the great outdoors while comfortably seated indoors.

As a hands-on sea trial, I was able to see and feel how the 54 Sedan responded to joystick instructions, as well as running the range of speeds. Around the docks, even in a bucking current, the 54 Sedan moved effortlessly and where she was directed. Intuitively you would look for the joystick on the right side of the helm. Nay-nay in this case. It’s mounted to

the left, which actually felt rather comfortable and allows for peering out the port-side window while docking.

Coupling the Cummins 600-hp engines with Zeus Pod Drives (complete with counter-rotating propellers) returns a respectable level of handling, maneuverability and speed. In a 2- to 3-foot open sea, the windshield stayed dry as we cruised along at a hair over 15 knots, burning almost 28 gallons. At wide open throttle, she topped out at just above 28 knots — plenty of get up and go to get through the slop.

Helm Happenings

Credit is due to those who designed the Belize 54 helm station. The dash has a center steering wheel, VesselView monitor and twin gauges in a leather-wrapped pod. Splitting the console (upper section) not only creates two separate pods for 15-inch chartplotter displays and other electronics, but it also adds to the visibility. As the split is several inches wide, it offers a clear line of sight to the foredeck and bow.

Helm seating is unique, not only a result of the extra-wide bolstered Treben Italian leather captain’s seat with armrests, but there’s also a double-wide companion seat to starboard and a seat across from that one, positioned next to the helm. It’s a nice setup for spouse/kids to be near the captain, or for guests who want to take in the incredible views.

Contours are molded into the dash where the illuminated push buttons for the roof, navigation lights, wipers, and trim dot the display. Nice touch!

As elegantly decorated as the upper level of the 54 Sedan is, the lower level boasts three luxurious staterooms. A mid-ship master has a queen berth, night stands, port lounge, 24-inch LCD TV, and cedar-lined closet. With the engine room aft, the master head is to starboard with a basin sink, Tecma Silence toilet and shower stall with a teak and holly bench seat.

A VIP stateroom in the forepeak features a double island berth, cedar-lined closets, and overhead hatch, while the third stateroom offers double bunks, perfect for the kids.

A lot of thought went into creating the Belize 54 Sedan. Think about bringing home one of your very own. **LB**

Standard Equipment

Onan EQD 13.5 kva generator; sun pad on foredeck; anchor and Muir windlass; BEP CZone monitoring system; four Rule bilge pumps; water heater; AC/Reverse Cycle heat system; teak decking; Bose stereo; tender garage for 3-meter dinghy; salon LCD TV; windscreen cover.

Optional Equipment

Painted hull; washer/dryer; dishwasher; electric blinds in master suite; office layout in third stateroom; salon ottoman; cockpit awning; window/upholstery/table covers.

Specifications

LOA: 54'1"
Beam: 16'6"
Draft: 3'6"
Weight (dry): 49,500 lbs.
Fuel Cap: 634 gals.
Water Cap: 184 gals.
Power: T-Cummins QSC 600 hp w/Zeus Pod Drives
Base Price: \$1,667,308

belizemotoryachts.com.au

