

By Capt. Dean Travis Clarke

PCS Boat Review

Riviera 505 SUV: *Posh and Powerful*



If you're looking for a traditional, hardcore, American-style sportfishing machine, perhaps this boat isn't for you. But if you want a luxurious yacht on which you can entertain, take two (or more) couples along for a weekend, have a boat you can be proud to show off and still seriously fish, then I suggest this new 505 SUV from Riviera. I am a curmudgeonly traditionalist and I'd be delighted to own one.

The point of this boat is being able to do everything with family or friends. It has the luxury of a yacht internally and all the amenities for fishing, diving and boating recreation aft.

What really sets this boat apart is the semi-enclosed (three sides) raised mezzanine area. Cockpit guests on most vessels sub 65 feet would be cluttering the cockpit, getting in the way. Climb a few steps, however,

and this large area serves a multitude of purposes; al fresco dining, watching the fishing action or just relaxing as you watch the sunset. This mezzanine qualifies as more functional than those on large, dedicated sportfishing convertibles. Besides augmenting the cockpit, it serves as a continuation of the salon area.

The cockpit comes with rod holders and insulated fish boxes. Outriggers are optional. About the only custom item I'd request is a receiver in the cockpit sole to accommodate a rocket launcher or fighting chair. Slow-trolling in a beam sea will be much more comfortable thanks to a standard Sea-keeper gyro stabilizer.

In the salon, a large helm area with seating for two and full electronics suite fills the starboard side. An oversized sunroof opens above the helm station to fill the salon and areas aft with breeze.

Opposite, step up to an L-shaped settee with adjustable table that can double as a berth. A complete galley occupies the port aft corner of the salon and sports a large opening window out to the mezzanine so you can pass





food and drinks out easily. Riviera has made the galley aft with window a signature feature on many of its boats over the years.

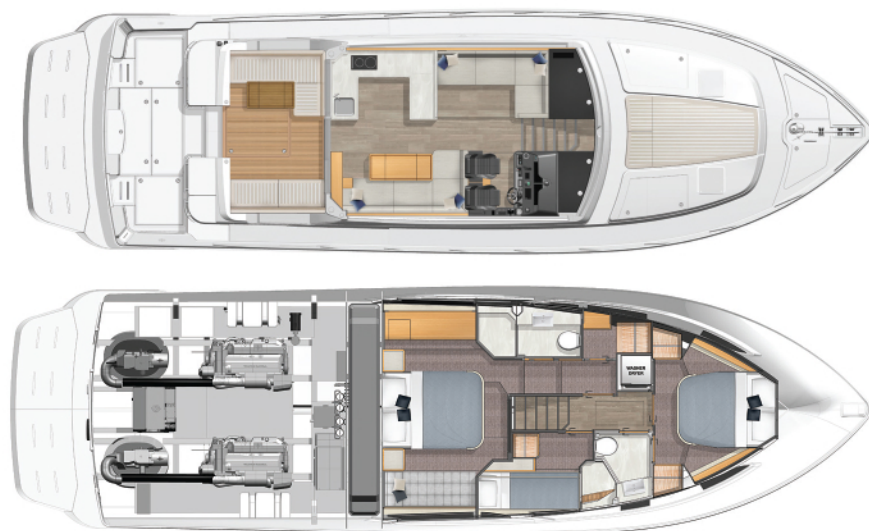
Below decks, Riviera provides very posh accommodations for six (or optionally eight or even 10 if you turn the salon and mezzanine tables into berths) in two full-width staterooms and one over/under single cabin. All the way forward is a centerline island berth in the forward stateroom along with opening in-hull windows. As an interesting safety feature, an alarm warns you that the

in-hull windows are open if you try to start the engines.

A head immediately aft to starboard includes a full stand-up shower, and you'll discover elegant architectural sinks and faucets in the head and galley as well as locker space to hide a washer and dryer. Moving farther aft, port side still, there's another head with a stand-up shower and the master stateroom just a few steps down. A third cabin with a pair of over/under twin berths is situated between the two large staterooms to starboard.

In addition to the designer faucets and fittings and ful-





ly dimmable LED lighting throughout, counters are Corian and your interior wood choices include oak, cherry or walnut with either satin or gloss finishes. Safety at sea is one of my biggest considerations, and Riviera makes a point of mounting substantial handrails everywhere you could possibly need one. Riviera also exhibits a masterful use of dead space to provide an inordinate amount of storage space throughout the 505 SUV.

Historically, Riviera has had relatively “cozy” engine compartments for the sizes of boats they are in. I am thrilled that, in my opinion, this is the finest engine room Riviera has ever designed. It’s bigger than the 57 enclosed bridge’s power compartment!

A pair of Volvo Penta D8 IPS diesels constitute standard power in the 505. That means you get a joystick allowing you (or your wife or children) to maneuver this boat with confidence in any circumstance thanks to the innovative Azipod drives. Even the tightest slip space will no longer be intimidating.

The 1,200-horsepower total pushes the 505 at a comfortable 29-knot cruise and tops out at 34 knots. Thanks to IPS, that can be accomplished at about a 30-plus percent savings over comparable vessels with standard running gear. Whether docking stern-to or fighting a fish, standard cockpit controls will make the effort easier.

The cockpit also boasts a freezer and an icemaker. Lots of fish box space occupies the underdeck area both athwartship on centerline and outboard on both sides – all heavily insulated. In true West Coast style, the 505 boasts a large, hydraulic swim platform on the transom. Open the transom door and place the



quick-mount rails on the swim platform and you effectively double the cockpit size instantly.

So far, I have to say this is one of the best thought-out Rivas I've ever seen.

Australia, New Zealand and South Africa all have some pretty rough water, and boats are designed and built to handle it. The 505's hand-laid fiberglass hull with vinylester resin comes with a seven-year structural warranty. Volvo Penta provides a five-year power warranty covering everything from the engines to the prop nut to the steering wheel. Riviera also has a marketing partnership with Garmin that allows them to include a five-year warranty on all Garmin electronics the factory installs on the 505.

Riviera has always impressed me with the rugged strength of their boats. But this 505 SUV qualifies as the first Riviera I'd own in a heartbeat!

HIGH POINTS

Awesome multi-function

mezzanine area

Volvo Penta IPS

Three staterooms

Sophisticated elegance

without going full-EuroTrue

fishability in a family yacht

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA..... 55', 10"

BEAM..... 16', 3"

DRAFT..... 4', 5"

WEIGHT54,013 pounds

FUEL 872 gallons

WATER..... 122 gallons

COCKPIT AREA..... 70 square feet

BRIDGE CLEARANCE..... 26', 2"

**STANDARD POWER T Volvo Penta
D8 diesels @ 600 horsepower each**

BASE BOAT \$1,409,500. ■

Dealers for Riviera

**Richard Boland Yacht Sales
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