



Predator 60

OPEN
FOR

The new Sunseeker Predator 60 is an airy party platform with surprisingly spacious accommodations below.

ENTERTAINMENT

STORY Louisa Beckett | PHOTOS Sunseeker

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hen open yachts first made their appearance in the Med, they were just that – open to the elements. Their designers' emphasis was on speed, style and sun pads. But over the years, these sleek speedsters have grown hard tops, enclosed deckhouses and even compact flybridges.

By contrast, the new Sunseeker Predator 60, is a return to the open yacht in its purest form. Its bridge and cockpit are sheltered by a hard top, true, but there is no bulkhead or glass doorway aft to break the main deck's flow. Furthermore, this yacht features one of the largest, sexiest automatic sunroofs on the water today. Carbon fiber beams support its massive glass panels, which slide open at the touch of a button to open the cockpit up to the sun or stars overhead.

“It’s a weekend boat. It’s easy for two people to handle. There’s a great entertainment space – you can have 15 people in the cockpit – and at the same time you can sleep up to eight

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT:

A convertible table makes the salon equally suitable for cocktails or dining; it adjoins an elegant modern galley. The open bridge deck easily can hold a crowd.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

The twin cabin has opening portlights; the full-beam master stateroom is a private hideaway with settee; the VIP conceals stowage overhead and beneath the berth.

people,” said Paul Burgess, Group Sales Manager for Nautikos, Florida. Burgess and Leonardo Carbajales, the Nautikos Group’s owner, were driving the Predator 60 from the Miami Yacht & Brokerage Show in February, where the recent Sunseeker made its U.S. debut, to their Coconut Grove dealership.

The relationship between Nautikos, exclusive dealer for Sunseeker in the Carolinas, Florida, The Bahamas and Mexico, and Sunseeker International dates back to 2000. “They are great people,” said Carbajales of the British builders. “It’s not just the product; it’s the people who run the business. They have great response to the needs of the clients, great support, after sales and service.”

The new Predator 60 also reflects a talent for space planning on the part of Sunseeker’s design team. A great many amenities are seamlessly packaged into this yacht’s relatively small footprint, making it an all-inclusive entertainment zone.

The teak-laid swim step is extended to create an optimum water-sports platform. Our test boat was equipped with a hydraulic version, which facilitates launching a dinghy or PWC. The Predator 60 also

has a tender garage, equipped with an electric winch. (For those who prefer to leave the driving to a captain, Sunseeker offers a small optional crew quarters in place of the garage.)

The Predator 60’s cockpit is one of the best in its size range for hosting a party. Two L-shaped settees, sheltered by the hard top, provide an exceptional amount of seating without making the deck feel crowded. To starboard, a cocktail table flips open to form a dining table. A wet bar with a cold box makes it easy for guests to grab a beer. Our boat’s owner had opted for a fridge instead, along with a barbecue grill and a 42-inch pop-up television, concealed in the back of the forward passenger seat.

“It can be customized. You can have whatever equipment you want,” said Carbajales.

There is a more intimate salon below-decks for “after parties” or inclement weather. Tucked into one corner is a galley that, while compact, is fully equipped with three-burner stove, fridge/freezer, microwave and large sink. On our 60, the salon/galley décor was elegant and understated, with walnut paneling and cabinetry lightened by off-white upholstery

panels. The entertainment system included a robust Bose surround-sound system, a Sunseeker hallmark. Headroom in the salon is a respectable 6' 6".

As Burgess mentioned, eight people can sleep aboard the Predator 60, if the owner opts for a convertible sofa in the lower salon. There are private staterooms for six people, including a forward VIP with double berth, a twin cabin to starboard and a full-beam master stateroom aft. The two guest staterooms share a head, although the VIP has its own access door. This bathroom also doubles as the day head, which might create a traffic problem when the yacht is full.

The master stateroom is a luxurious hideaway. In addition to a double berth on centerline, it has a settee and vanity, a full-length wardrobe and ample drawer storage. Headroom here is 6' 4". Three hull windows on either side provide light; one of the panes opens to create a cross-breeze. The ensuite bath has a separate shower stall and a chic, egg-shaped Decca sink.

All the hardware on the Predator 60 is substantial, imparting a feeling of security. Safety is more than subtext with Sunseeker. On deck, the side walkarounds are deep with high stainless rails running forward to the bow. Both the forward and aft sun pads also have safety rails. There is a chart flat at

the helm in addition to the large array of electronic navigation instruments mounted in the striking carbon fiber dash.

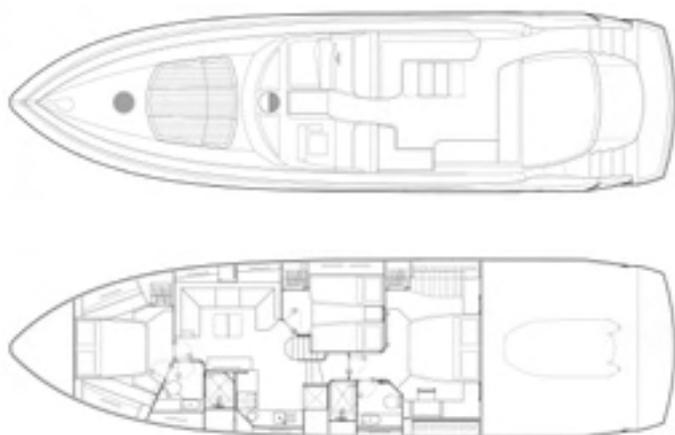
The double helm seat commands a nearly 360-degree view through the raked windshield, sweeping side windows and, of course, the hard top's open back. With the sunroof open, the Predator 60 offers a wind-in-your-hair driving experience, although the windshield does minimize the breeze. An adjustable footrest and flip-up bolster seat let the driver sit or stand and look over the windshield's top frame as preference dictates.

Sunseeker offers the Predator 60 with a variety of propulsion packages, including Arneson drives that the shipyard says boost top-end performance to more than 40 knots. Our boat was equipped with twin Cat C-18 Acert 1150s, which still packed plenty of punch, providing a top speed of 35 knots @ 2,350 rpm. With a nearly full fuel tank, we maintained a smooth and comfortable cruising speed of about 28 knots at 1,900 rpm. Any questions about the Predator 60's offshore performance were answered by the news that this particular boat would be delivered from Miami to her new owner in Cancun on its own bottom. "I love this boat. It's so beautifully balanced," said Burgess. "This is why you buy a Sunseeker!" ■

BELOW: The huge automatic sunroof is designed to blend into the boat's sleek exterior styling.



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Sunseeker Predator 60

LOA: 63' 7" (19.37M)
LOA (W/LIFTING PLATFORM): 65' 4" (19.92M)
BEAM: 16' 3" (4.95M)
DRAFT (FULL LOAD): 4' 11" (1.49M)
DISPLACEMENT (FULL LOAD): 75,854 LB. (33,500 KG)
FUEL CAPACITY: 793 U.S. GAL. (3,000L)
FRESH WATER CAPACITY: 185 U.S. GAL. (700L)

ENGINES: 2 x CATERPILLAR C-18 ACERT @ 1,150HP
MAX SPEED: UP TO 35 KNOTS
CRUISING SPEED: 28 KNOTS
RANGE: 280 NM
GENERATOR (U.S.): 13kW @ 110V 60Hz
CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL: GRP
BUILDER/DESIGNER: SUNSEEKER INTERNATIONAL