



Readers' CHOICE



You cast your votes, and the results are in for *Southern Boating's* 5th Annual Readers' Choice Awards. Every vote was counted, including the write-in candidates, and tallied in a secure location. The only input from our team or advertisers was encouraging you, our readers, to vote!

Readers chose their preferences in 32 categories from favorite center console to power catamaran and favorite vacation destination to cruising itinerary. Navigation equipment, engines, safety products, and boat insurance company are a sampling of what's included in this year's options.

In some categories, first and second place were separated by only a few percentage points, but overall, there was a definite winner.

Thank you to all our subscribers who participated. Once again, your feedback and input made this event a huge success.



Readers' CHOICE
★ ★ ★
January 2025

Favorite Motor Yacht

1ST PLACE: Marlow

2ND PLACE: Grand Banks

3RD PLACE: Azimut

Marlow Yachts, such as the 90V (above), can cross the oceans in luxury, comfort, and reliability. These yachts shine in performance and appearance. marlowyachts.com

TOM SERIO



Favorite Vacation Destination

- 1ST PLACE:** The Bahamas
2ND PLACE: Europe
3RD PLACE: USA

With crystal-clear blue waters, gorgeous white-sand beaches that stretch for miles, plenty of islands to explore, and an abundance of water activities all around, it's no doubt **the Bahamas** is our readers' favorite vacation destination!
bahamas.com

CHATN CHILL



Favorite Marine Generator

- 1ST PLACE:** Cummins/Onan
2ND PLACE: Rehlko (formerly Kohler)
3RD PLACE: Northern Lights

With more than 80 years in the marine market, **Cummins/Onan** generators offer reliability, optimal performance, and maximum efficiency. Generator power ranges from 4kW to 110kW. cummins.com



Favorite Binoculars

- 1ST PLACE:** Bushnell
2ND PLACE: Nikon
3RD PLACE: Steiner

Bushnell has a full lineup of marine binoculars with waterproof construction along with a firm grip, even in wet conditions. The high-quality binoculars deliver bright, clear, HD imagery. bushnell.com

Favorite Boat Insurance Company

- 1ST PLACE:** Progressive
2ND PLACE: Chubb
3RD PLACE: Geico

Progressive lets you customize your boat insurance and offers a discount for taking a boating safety course. progressive.com



Favorite Fishing Equipment Brand

- 1ST PLACE:** Shimano
2ND PLACE: Penn
3RD PLACE: Daiwa

Pro-level performance, precision engineering, and durability, make **Shimano** fishing equipment the favorite among anglers of all skill levels. fish.shimano.com

ADOBE STOCK/PEMIKA AND DAN BROOKS





Favorite Express Cruiser

- 1ST PLACE: Tiara
- 2ND PLACE: Sea Ray
- 3RD PLACE: Eclipse

Tiara's model lineup, including the 56 LS which will debut next month (shown), combines sport styling, luxurious amenities, and thrilling performance in a yacht that is ready to meet the demands of a day cruise. tiarayachts.com



Favorite Trawler

- 1ST PLACE: Grand Banks
- 2ND PLACE: Nordhavn
- 3RD PLACE: Outer Reef

The unmistakable classic look of a **Grand Banks** trawler turns heads wherever she goes. She features a raised wheelhouse, high bulwarks, and curved hull lines, as seen on the GB60 (shown). grandbanks.com

Favorite Watch

- 1ST PLACE: Rolex
- 2ND PLACE: Apple
- 3RD PLACE: Garmin

Rolex watches are crafted from the finest raw materials and assembled with meticulous attention to detail. The Oyster Perpetual Deepsea model (right) sets the standard for luxury sailors' timepieces. rolex.com



Favorite Cooler Brand

- 1ST PLACE: YETI
- 2ND PLACE: Igloo
- 3RD PLACE: RTIC

YETI's hard- and soft-sided insulated coolers are extremely durable and ready for any outdoor adventure. Available in a variety of sizes and colors, like the Tundra 45 (right), they are built to be by a boater's side for each catch or cruise. yeti.com



ROLEX/JVA STUDIOS



Favorite Personal Locator Beacon

- 1ST PLACE: ACR Electronics
- 2ND PLACE: Garmin
- 3RD PLACE: Ocean Signal

ACR Electronics designs and manufactures cutting-edge rescue beacons and survival equipment for the marine market and more. Personal Locator Beacons, such as the new ResQ Flare (left), aid in rapid response. acrartex.com



Favorite Power Catamaran

- 1ST PLACE:** Horizon Power Catamarans
- 2ND PLACE:** Leopard Catamarans
- 3RD PLACE:** Aquila Power Catamarans

Every **Horizon Power Catamaran** delivers exceptional reliability and performance, and offers all the necessary amenities for extended cruising. Each luxury powercat, such as the PC52 (shown), can also be fully customized. horizonpowercatamarans.com

Favorite Boating Navigation

- 1ST PLACE:** Garmin
- 2ND PLACE:** Raymarine
- 3RD PLACE:** Simrad

Garmin's easy-to-use navigation equipment lets you pinpoint your location and access data to pilot safely through the water day or night. garmin.com



Favorite Marine Audio

- 1ST PLACE:** Garmin/JL Audio
- 2ND PLACE:** Fusion
- 3RD PLACE:** Clarion

Garmin/JL Audio, manufacturer of high-performance marine audio systems, develops innovative products that are engineered to reproduce the finest audio experience in open-air boating environments. jlaudio.com



Favorite VHF Radio

- 1ST PLACE:** Garmin
- 2ND PLACE:** ICOM
- 3RD PLACE:** Raymarine

Boating enthusiasts choose **Garmin** VHF marine radios for their durability and ease of use. garmin.com



Favorite Sunglasses

- 1ST PLACE:** Costa
- 2ND PLACE:** Maui Jim
- 3RD PLACE:** Ray-Ban

Costa offers a variety of stylish sunglasses with superior lens technology. costadelmar.com



Favorite Picnic/Downeast-style Boat

- 1ST PLACE: Palm Beach
- 2ND PLACE: Hinckley
- 3RD PLACE: Sabre

Palm Beach Motor Yachts' proprietary V-Warp Technology incorporates a warped, semi-displacement hull form and extensive use of carbon fiber, resulting in class-leading speed and performance, as seen in the PB55 (shown). palmbeachmotoryachts.com



Favorite Connectivity Provider

- 1ST PLACE: Starlink
- 2ND PLACE: KVH
- 3RD PLACE: Globalstar

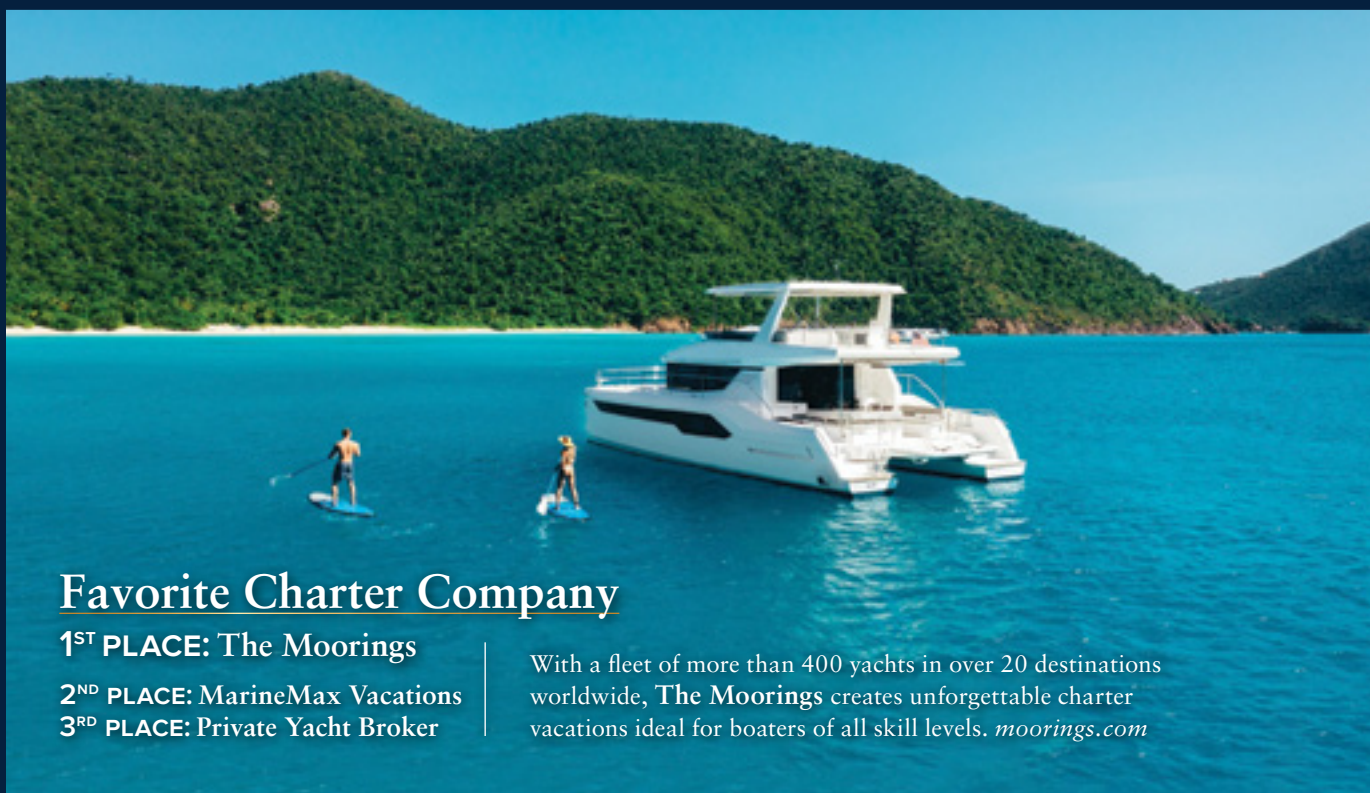
Starlink delivers high-speed, low-latency Internet both in-motion and while anchored. Enjoy streaming movies, making video calls, and more on board. starlink.com



Favorite Life Raft

- 1ST PLACE: Viking
- 2ND PLACE: Winslow LifeRaft
- 3RD PLACE: Revere Survival

Viking life rafts of the throw overboard type, like the 25DK+ (shown), are essential when it comes to safety at sea. viking-life.com



Favorite Charter Company

- 1ST PLACE: The Moorings
- 2ND PLACE: MarineMax Vacations
- 3RD PLACE: Private Yacht Broker

With a fleet of more than 400 yachts in over 20 destinations worldwide, **The Moorings** creates unforgettable charter vacations ideal for boaters of all skill levels. moorings.com

Favorite Boating Stabilizer

- 1ST PLACE: Seakeeper
- 2ND PLACE: Naiad
- 3RD PLACE: Seakeeper Ride

Seakeeper gyro stabilizers eliminate up to 95 percent of boat roll on vessels up to 165 feet. The new Seakeeper 14 is designed for boats 55-68 feet. seakeeper.com



Favorite Inboard Engine

- 1ST PLACE: Volvo Penta
- 2ND PLACE: Caterpillar
- 3RD PLACE: Cummins

Volvo Penta inboard engines deliver comfortable cruising speed, powerful acceleration, and an extended range. volvopenta.com



Readers'
CHOICE



Favorite Center Console

1ST PLACE: Grady-White

2ND PLACE: Boston Whaler

3RD PLACE: Valhalla

Grady-White Boats builds ruggedly elegant outboard powerboats ranging from 18-45 feet, such as the Canyon 306 center console (shown). gradywhite.com



Readers'
CHOICE



Favorite Cruising Itinerary

1ST PLACE: The Bahamas

2ND PLACE: Caribbean

3RD PLACE: BVIs

From diving to fishing to ecotourism, **the Bahamas** remains a fan favorite. Comprising 700 islands and more than 2,000 rocks and cays, the archipelago is easy to reach from the East Coast. There are plenty of places to explore, so boaters can make a cruising itinerary for a few days or a few weeks. *bahamas.com*



Favorite Inflatable

- 1ST PLACE: Zodiac
- 2ND PLACE: Highfield
- 3RD PLACE: AB Inflatables

Zodiac rigid inflatable boats, like the Medline 9 (shown), provide the ultimate on-the-water experience for any water sport. Benefits include stress-free docking, lightweight towing, reduced drag, and better fuel efficiency. zodiac-nautic.com



Favorite Foul-Weather Gear

- 1ST PLACE: Helly Hansen
- 2ND PLACE: Columbia
- 3RD PLACE: Grundéns

From versatile coastal jackets to professional-grade offshore sailing jackets, **Helly Hansen** gear is perfect for coastal cruising, high-speed racing, or enjoying long days on the water. hellyhansen.com



Favorite Outboard Engine

- 1ST PLACE: Yamaha
- 2ND PLACE: Mercury
- 3RD PLACE: Suzuki

Yamaha offers a full lineup of four-stroke outboard engines that provide excellent fuel economy and cleaner emissions in a lightweight, compact design. yamahaoutboards.com

Favorite Sportfisherman

- 1ST PLACE: Viking
- 2ND PLACE: Hatteras
- 3RD PLACE: Rybovich

Viking sportfishers, like the 90 (shown), are designed for the ultimate luxury tournament fishing and yachting experience. vikingyachts.com



Favorite Green Boat

- 1ST PLACE:** Greenline
2ND PLACE: Silent Yachts
3RD PLACE: Axopar 25 Electric

Greenline are the only yachts to offer H-Drive as well as full E-Drive. Their models, such as the 58 Fly (shown), include solar panels, recycling garbage cans, and the use of eco-friendly fabrics on board. greenlinehybrid.com



Favorite Marine Paint

- 1ST PLACE:** Awlgrip
2ND PLACE: Interlux
3RD PLACE: Pettit

Awlgrip products provide a wide range of colors and effects, combined with high gloss and proven durability. awlgrip.com



Favorite Alcohol

- 1ST PLACE:** Beer
2ND PLACE: Vodka
3RD PLACE: Rum

After a long day of cleaning the boat or out trying to catch the night's dinner, our readers like to sit back on the aft deck and enjoy their favorite alcoholic beverage, a cold **beer**.



ADOBE STOCK/VADARSHOP

Favorite Outboard Catamaran

- 1ST PLACE:** World Cat
2ND PLACE: Aquila
3RD PLACE: Freeman

World Cat boats, like the 260DC-X (shown), deliver a smoother, softer, faster, and drier catamaran ride in even the roughest conditions. worldcat.com