

New Boats

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EuroHaines

The latest version of the popular Haines Hunter SP/SS/SF725, the 725 Sport Euro, is a true weekender with plenty of luxury features.

Words and photos **Ben Gladwell**



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In the 18 months since the release of the award-winning Haines Hunter SP725 and SS725, the team at Haines Hunter has churned out 44 of these magnificent boats, and introduced the SF725 (soft top), and now the Sport Euro.

This new variation on the classic 725 offers far more creature comforts than previous models. The boat is perfectly suited to longer fishing trips, and it is fully self-contained so it's capable of taking you away for the weekend in comfort.

The main points of difference are the bi-folding doors and electric windows that completely seal the cabin from the cockpit. This keeps owners completely out of the elements and also makes passage making much more comfortable.

Less wind and engine noise also mean that conversation can be held at a normal volume. Alternatively, the doors and windows can be fully opened up to create a pleasant flow between the cockpit and cabin.

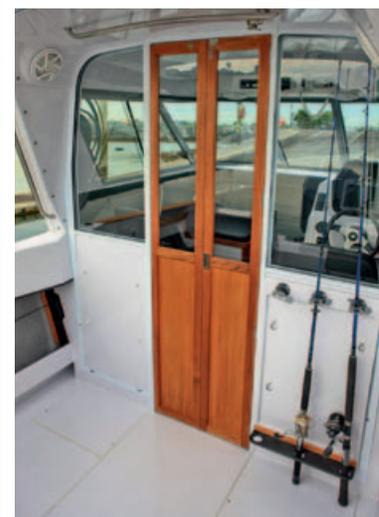
"Having the enclosed cabin provides that

warmth that you don't get with an open boat," says Haines Hunter's Lionel Sands. "Being able to close the hardtop off creates a totally different environment, for when the conditions aren't conducive to wearing bikinis and speedos."

Inside the cabin is a large double berth with storage locker beneath the floor and a head. The fully functional galley comes with gas cooker, fridge and a locker for wine or spirits, depending on your poison.

The cockpit is also extremely comfortable. Each of the leather-upholstered seats can be removed quickly and easily. When removed, the bases – which double as fish bins when the cushions are removed – slide under the transom out of the way. The backs of the forward seats can be unclipped then replaced with rod racks to give you the option of having the cockpit set up for hard-core fishing, more relaxed 'gentleman's' fishing, or a gin and tonic cruise.

The Sport Euro retains the same hull shape



as the previous models and exhibits impeccable manners. Under cornering the boat feels precise and direct as she responds quickly to the will of the helmsman. The throttle is remarkably light, which means that fine-tuning your speed to maximize fuel efficiency or running alongside another vessel is exceptionally easy. The boat's powered by the Yamaha 250hp V6 so it's powerful yet efficient, and if you're in a hurry you can barrel along at over 45 knots. The V6 is also a very quiet engine, so even with the cabin doors open

the engine noise is unobtrusive. In short, the 725 SE is a pleasure to drive.

Along with all the exciting new features, the 725 SE still bears all the hallmarks that made her younger sisters so popular. The two seats in the cabin are comfortable bucket seats, fully adjustable, with the skipper's set at the perfect distance from the helm station. This gives enough room to get in and out of the seat while still having the steering wheel fall easily to hand. Her electronics package is also very impressive with a Lowrance HDS Gen 2 chartplotter and

Pioneer stereo with iPod connectivity.

The Haines Hunter 725 Euro Sport is the perfect vessel for people who are serious about fishing, but who also want to be able to take comfortable extended trips. It offers the best of both worlds without compromising on any of the features required for either. The attention to detail is obvious, its high quality design and build creating a boat that will provide quality family leisure time.

Haines Hunter's catch phrase 'the secret is in the ride' is fully evident in this boat.

Haines Hunter 725 Euro Sport

- loa 7.50m
- beam 2.50m
- height (on trailer) 2.95m
- deadrise 23 degrees
- weight (on trailer) 2500kg (depending on specification)
- fuel capacity 250 litres
- fresh water capacity 60 litres
- priced from \$144,000
- price as tested \$171,000