

Haines Signature 500C

Signature's small boat stable has been expanded with the release of the 500 C Deluxe. This very pretty family cuddy cab follows the 500 Bow Rider released earlier this year, and reminds us that the Champ isn't about to yield once ounce of gelcoat to the imports!

Report by Jeff Webster. Pics by the F&B team

Signature has always made great cuddy cabin boats. Over the years, some pretty special boats have emerged from Signature's Brisbane based factory. Among these are some true classics, including the 550 LE, 492 F, 540 F and 550 C. In the current Signature range boat buyers can choose from around a dozen cuddy or half cabin boats. Models include the entry 460 DF, the 520 C, 530 C, 540 F, 542 F, 550 C, 575 F, 600 F, 610 C, 630 F - and the big 702 and 770 Sports Cruisers.

A new addition to the Signature cuddy cab line up is the stylish looking 500 C Deluxe. The new model is the first of two boats being introduced to replace the aging (but still popular) 493 F. The 500 C is targeted expressly toward family buyers. A 500 F model, to be released later this year, will be set up for fishermen.

Design

From whatever angle you look at it, the Signature 500 C is a beautiful looking boat. I think it is one of the best looking Signature's I've seen for a long while. The rounded, flowing cabin structure, curved windscreen and small, oval shaped cabin windows


give the boat an individual appearance.

Underneath, the patented Signature variable deadrise hull is not too shabby looking, either. The clearly defined, sharply angled forefoot, flared, concave hull also points toward a soft ride in choppy water.

The 500 C is designed as a deluxe, all purpose family boat. Inside, the fit-out and level of equipment reflects this objective. Vinyl upholstered side pockets/coaming sides, outdoor carpet on the floor and inner sides, and deluxe seating - all improve the comfort of the boat and make it more appealing for family boating.

In the cabin, customers can choose between the standard, hard wearing vinyl berth upholstery, or spend a few dollars more to have the berths covered in Signature's smooth new "Macro Suede" material.

The cabin berths are just three quarter length (1.62 m), so the boat can't really be used for over-nighting. However, the berths are long and wide enough for most youngsters to stretch out comfortably. Adults could also curl up for an afternoon nap at a pinch. A berth infill is also



The Signature team never stop trying to build a better hull - this new chine 'step' (designed to reduce hull 'stick' by aerating the flow of water along the bottom) is just the latest example of their on-going design initiative.