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ARRIVALS

BY RANDY WOODS / PHOTOS COURTESY OF BENETEAU



Just hitting the Northwest shores near the end of the summer season is the new Beneteau Gran Turismo 45, which tied up at Denison Yachting over Seafair weekend. This sleek, streamlined beauty features huge, openable windows, an airy indoor/outdoor cockpit area, and one of the coolest little staircases you'll see on a 48-footer.

Stepping aboard, visitors quickly note the many opportunities there are for sunbathing, including the wide, hydraulic swim step, a sunpad located over the starboard tender garage, and a huge sunpad platform at the foredeck that can accommodate three people, and includes a built-in, retractable shade canopy. The tender garage can secure a small 9' RIB dinghy and includes an option for a flip-open Kenyon electric BBQ grill on the aft edge.

Farther forward, the cockpit features a roomy U-shaped settee to starboard that is large enough for eight people. The settee and foldable wooden table sit opposite a mini-galley, with an ice maker and a mini-fridge. The helm, immediately forward, includes a captain's chair, a co-pilot bench, both with bolsters, and a wide electric sunroof in the hardtop directly overhead. Navigational gear includes a 4" Volvo engine display and a suite of Garmin electronics, such as a 12" multifunction 8416 screen, broadband 4G radar, a depth sounder, 315i VHF, an 800 AIS transceiver, and autopilot.

The port side of the cockpit provides ample space to move forward to the stairway to the lower deck. The elegant turn of the stairs to starboard is less than 90 degrees, but the curved tinted-glass ceiling above follows the stairway contour, providing a sweeping arc of natural light to the lower deck. At the bottom of the stairs is the compact main galley to port, featuring a double stainless steel sink, Corian countertops, a ceramic hob cooktop, a microwave oven, a 7.7-cubic-foot refrigerator/ freezer, and openable portholes.

In the standard two-cabin layout for the Beneteau GT 45, a salon is located opposite the galley, with space for a U-shaped, four-person sofa, a dining table, and options for a 24" TV and a Fusion sound system. However, in the three-cabin configuration, the salon space can be made into an







extra berth with two bunkbeds. In either layout, the aft owner's cabin features a double-sized berth, a 22" TV, a Fusion sound system, two panoramic windows, Venetian blinds, and an en suite head and separate shower stall. The VIP cabin at the bow includes either a double or two single berths, similar TV/audio hookups, and access to the boat's day head and shower. Several styles of custom paneling, upholstery, and carpeting are available from Beneteau, but the standard package features ultra-modern, three-gloss Alpi grey walnut woodwork and brown oak laminated floors.

The GT 45 is powered by twin joystick-controlled Volvo 600 diesel engines, with either IPS pods or Z-drive propulsion options, producing a combined total of 880 hp. The helm also includes Seanapps' smart technology for monitoring the boat's status and receiving alerts and maintenance advice, based on GPS position and information on battery, engine, and nav system data.