

# THE YEAR'S BEST GEAR



FEBRUARY 2013  
WORLD'S LEADING  
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# SAIL

## BLUEWATER CRUISING

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FLAGSHIPS

# launches

BY PETER NIELSEN

## Beneteau Oceanis 55

With the introduction two years ago of its revamped Oceanis line, Beneteau brought a whole new aesthetic to production boatbuilding. With its bold hull chines, cockpit mainsheet arch and sharp styling, the Oceanis 55 makes its predecessor, the handsome and capable Oceanis 54, look positively dowdy by comparison.

There are some visual similarities to the recently introduced Sense 55, but the Oceanis's layout and design are aimed at more conservatively minded sailors. Modular construction belowdecks allows for a variety of layouts, including a five-cabin, five-head version.

BENETEAU, BENETEAUUSA.COM

## Lyman Morse 55

If you want an honest, unpretentious yet upscale bluewater cruiser with a solid design and build pedigree, this Chuck Paine/Ed Joy creation could be the boat for you. The hull is a resin-infused solid fiberglass laminate, with a cored cabin-top and deck. Simplicity, ruggedness and reliability were key criteria in specing the masthead rig and high-quality mechanical

systems; a crew of two should easily be able to handle this 45,000lb-displacement yacht. The accommodations are finished in Herreshoff-style white veneers with teak trim, and the sensible three-cabin layout is designed for practicality at sea, with seaberths in the saloon, a twin-bunk passage cabin and plentiful stowage.

LYMAN MORSE, LYMANMORSE.COM