

*T*iara's latest stands tall among top-quality express cruisers.

TIARA 44



REVIEW

4 COUPE

BY CHUCK GOULD

PHOTOS BY C-IMAGES



A couple of thousand years back, boat design morphed into countless variations on a common theme. Only a few years ago, the naval architects and designers at Tiara were charged with creating a fresh look for the product line, without abandoning the traditional lines and proportions that are recognizable as a Tiara.

The first fruits of this labor emerged in 2014: the Tiara 50 Coupe. The 50 debuted to rave reviews and immediate consumer acclaim. Not everybody needs or wants a boat as large as 50', and not everybody is able or eager to part with about \$1.5-million (MSRP) to purchase a boat. For 2015, Tiara is offering a more accessible version of the 50 Coupe, the Tiara 44.

We got a close look at the Tiara 44 at Ocean Alexander's office on Lake Union. Impressive is an understatement. With their new entrants into the express cruiser market, Tiara intended to "one up" just about every other builder in nearly all categories. Mission accomplished with the 44 Coupe. This vessel can be

intelligently compared with any express cruiser in its size or price range, and will likely be the final choice for many who undertake a close examination.

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Mission accomplished with the 44 Coupe.

The styling of the 44 Coupe reflects a happy mixture of classic Tiara elements and new innovations. There is substantial bow flare, a wide beam, and traditional Tiara cues that include rounding at the forward trunk as well as the stern. Large windows



A RETRACTABLE HARDTOP OVER THE COCKPIT HELPS EXTEND THE 44'S SOCIAL SPACE FROM THE CABIN ALL THE WAY TO AN EXTRA-WIDE SWIM PLATFORM.

below the sheer, as well as traditional portlights, will brighten the atmosphere below decks. The jaunty hardtop includes a standard, power-operated sun-roof, introducing outdoor conditions into the cabin on pleasant days while extending the usable salon space outdoors, even in bad weather.

PROVEN HULL

Tiara incorporated one of their proven offshore sport-fishing hull designs into the 44 Coupe. This is a boat that isn't merely capable of surviving a rough-water passage, but is specifically intended to maximize comfort and safety in conditions that would send lesser boats scurrying back to shelter. There are 18 degrees of deadrise at the transom, and the 44 Coupe supports an impressive 30,000 pounds of weight on this deep-V configuration.

Seaworthy design and stout construction must go hand in hand. The 44 Coupe is laid up the painstaking, old-fashioned way: by hand. Leon Slikkers, the founder of Tiara, has been building fiberglass boats since before most of his competitors were founded. Carefully supervised and experienced professionals can hand-lay a hull to exceptionally high standards. The Tiara 44 Coupe is solid fiberglass below the



COMPANIONWAY STEPS LEAD TO STATEROOMS FORWARD AND AMIDSHIPS.



FORWARD-FACING TRANSOM SEAT, WITH COCKTAIL TABLE IN PLACE.

waterline, with balsa coring above the waterline and in the diamond pattern non-skid deck laminates. All stringers are integrated into the hull, and even the bilges are finished with gelcoat. Bronze seacocks are used throughout.

Tiara selected the Volvo IPS propulsion system for the 44 Coupe. Twin 435hp diesels are coupled to underwater pod drives, permitting unbelievable close-quarters control and responsive handling. Joystick control enables pinpoint accuracy when docking. The engines are computer synchronized with major electronics, including the plotter and autopilot, creating an intuitive operating system that Tiara calls the “glass helm.”

ENTERTAINING SPACE

Critics of any boat without an upper deck often decry the lack of space for entertaining *al fresco*.

Here on the shores of the Salish Sea, we treasure our annual few months of opportunity to stand in the soft breeze and enjoy a cold beverage as the sun slips out of sight in the west. The Tiara 44 Coupe resolves that issue, very adeptly. Tiara designed a 60" swim plat-

form aft of the transom. An optional hydraulic feature (included with the boat in stock at Ocean Alexander) raises and lowers the swim platform in the water. A dinghy can be stowed on the swim platform, with passengers stepping aboard before launch and remaining aboard until after the shore boat has been hauled free of the water. With the dinghy launched and rafted alongside, the swim platform expands the social and entertainment options already present in the cockpit.

These include lots of room for a barbecue and food or beverage prep on the transom, with two

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aft-facing seats and one forward-facing molded into the cockpit. There's an auxiliary cooler below one of the aft-facing seats, and stowage below the other. The teak cocktail table in the cockpit can be swapped with the double-leaf dining table from the salon when serving a full meal outdoors. An eight-inch Polk Audio subwoofer and a pair of JL Audio exterior speakers (with auxiliary amplifier) will rock the aft deck party crowd on this boat.



THE STATE-OF-THE-ART 'GLASS HELM' IS FULLY INTERGRATED WITH PROPULSION AND NAV SYSTEMS.

Entry to the main cabin is through a heavily built, polished stainless steel door in the aft bulkhead. The glass panels slide to either side, creating an uninterrupted passage from the main cabin to the cockpit. With the extra-wide swim platform included, there's an enormous amount of room for socializing aboard the Tiara 44 Coupe.

INTERIOR AMENITIES

There's so much light in the main cabin, between the large windows and the overhead sunroof, that it almost seems like you're still on deck. Visibility is great from



THERE'S GREAT VISIBILITY FROM THE RAISED DINETTE, WITH ITS TWO-LEAF TABLE AND SETTEE.



THE MASTER STATEROOM FORWARD HOLDS A HUGE ISLAND BERTH WITH STOWAGE UNDERNEATH.

the helm, and a six-foot skipper can easily stand at the wheel without stooping to see “under” the hardtop.

The galley is to starboard in the main cabin, with a stainless steel sink mounted under a Corian countertop. Cooking is accomplished with a recessed, two-burner electric cooktop with exhaust fan. A microwave convection oven, concealed behind a door under the countertop, handles warming and baking chores. Refrigeration, by Iso-therm, consists of a two-drawer refrigerator/freezer combo – and there’s a built in icemaker as well. A flat-screen TV slides out from behind the upper cabinet, immediately forward of the bulkhead door.

The salon settee is to port, slightly raised from the main cabin sole to ensure that passengers continue

to enjoy good visibility when seated. A two-leaf dining table folds out to create extra space for serving larger meals.

Ultraleather upholstery is standard on the Tiara 44 Coupe, including a very comfortable pilot seat. The “glass helm” includes two generously proportioned LCD screens from which nearly all major navigation, propulsion and operation functions are controlled.

Below decks, the master stateroom is most forward and accessible through a private entrance. A pedestal berth, with pillowtop inner-spring mattress,

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is on centerline. Tiara uses the space below the berth for stowage, supporting the weight of the berth with pneumatic cylinders to permit two-handed placement and retrieval. The hanging locker is lined with cedar, and there's a 19" flat screen TV and Bose Soundlink Bluetooth speaker system included.

The master head includes a Vacuflush toilet, a fiberglass shower stall with teak seat and glass door, teak countertops, a hand basin, and accent lighting at the medicine cabinet.

Aft of the master stateroom and situated athwart, the VIP quarters includes two single berths, (combinable with a filler cushion). The berths have inner-spring mattresses and less than standing headroom. This compact compartment benefits from an overhead skylight (with privacy screen) that admits additional lighting. The VIP/ day head includes a fiberglass shower stall, Vacuflush toilet and teak countertop with hand basin.

Anyone exploring top-caliber options in the luxury express cruiser category should certainly include the Tiara 44 Coupe among their comparisons. This boat will definitely impress, and Tiara has succeeded in their goal of restating the extraordinary 50' Coupe in a smaller, more affordable package.

For more information about the 44 Coupe or any other vessels by Tiara, contact Alexander Marine USA in Seattle at 206-344-8566 or visit alexandermarineusa.com.

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA	45' 6"
Beam	15' 0"
Draft	3' 9"
Estimated Dry Weight	30,000 lbs
Bridge Clearance	12'
Fuel Cap.	150 gals
Water Cap.	118 gals
Waste Cap.	35 gals
Propulsion	Twin Volvo 435hp IPS600 diesels, with Glass Cockpit
Genset	Onan 11.5kW diesel



CONTROLS FOR HOUSE AND ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEMS ARE ATTRACTIVELY ORGANIZED IN A SALON CABINET.



THERE ARE DELUXE FITTINGS AND FIXTURES IN THE HEADS.