



**BENETEAU**

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***BENETEAU 40 WINS BOAT OF THE YEAR "BEST MIDSIZE CRUISER"***



MARION, SC, DECEMBER 17, 2007: The Beneteau 40 was awarded Boat of the Year by *Cruising World* Magazine for Best Midsize Cruiser. *Cruising World* magazine announced the best in boatbuilding for 2008 with its 15th annual Boat of the Year Awards. The results will be featured in *Cruising World's* January 2008 issue.

In October, the judges nominated 24 boats in six categories: small cruisers, midsize cruisers, multihulls, midsize luxury cruisers, full-size cruisers and a unlimited cruisers category called, "Nothing quite like it." The judges included Steve Callahan, boat

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designer, Stacey Collins, a lifelong cruiser and veteran judge in the Boat of the Year Awards; Tom Linskey, former racer, sail maker and magazine editor; and Ralph Naranjo, former boatyard manager, technical editor and author. The judges toured the boats at the U.S. Sailboat Show in Annapolis, Maryland, and sailed them on Chesapeake Bay over four days.

In the category of midsize cruisers, the competition included the Dufour 425, Grand Soleil 40, Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 42i, Sabre Spirit and the Beneteau 40.

"Comfortable and stylish belowdecks and well organized topside, the Beneteau 40 showed light-air performance on the waters off Annapolis last fall that hinted at good handling in a stiffer breeze, and convinced the BOTY judges that this boat was a standout among Midsize Cruisers," according to *Cruising World*.

"All in all, a good coastal cruising boat at a very reasonable price," Naranjo said.

For more information about the Beneteau 40 please visit [www.beneteauusa.com](http://www.beneteauusa.com).

Beneteau USA, the American division of the world's largest sailboat manufacturer, builds hundreds of 32-49 foot production sailboats, as well as the Swift Trawler 42, in Marion, SC and imports sailing yachts up to 57 feet in length from its parent company in France. The boats are sold through a network of over 40 dealers from the north in Alaska to the southern tip of Chile.