

PCS Boat Review

Bertram 35

A storied design reaches new heights



It was July 16, 1958, when Richard Bertram laid his eyes on the first Ray Hunt designed hull. It was Ray's prototype 23-foot deep vee. It was cutting through the six-foot seas at 30 knots with ease. It handled the seas like no other hull Bertram had witnessed and he knew this design would change boating forever. Richard then had Ray take him out the next day, and he commissioned Ray to design a 31-footer on the spot. The new 31 made its debut at the 1961 New York Boat Show and, as they say, the rest is history. The 31-foot Bertram earned its rank as the most recognized and loved fishing platform in the world—and for good reason.

Fast forward to 2015, when Beniamino Gavio purchased Bertram Yachts from the Ferretti Group. The experienced yachtman's company Gavio Group, which also owns Baglietto (one of the world's oldest boat builders) and Cerre Cantieri Navali (CCN), soon made a commitment to re-

build Bertram in America. Enjoying a depth of financial resources that had not been available for decades, the new, modern Bertram launched its 35 footer in 2016 at the Newport International Boat Show in Rhode Island. Earlier this year, the first of these models hit the West Coast, and I was honored to be able to go out and give her a test run.

I have a history of fishing on the Bertrams. In my numerous trips to Tropic Star Lodge in Panama, I have accomplished many personal bests and first specie catches on the classic 31. We have been out in glass weather and also in some real rough stuff, and the old standby always performs. I also used to fish Drew Lawler's 38 Bertram and had great experiences. To say the

