

## Grady-White Express 340 Brings East Coast Legacy to West Coast Waters

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*New model blends offshore performance, cruising comfort, and fishability for Southern California boaters.*

For decades, Grady-White has built a reputation on the East Coast for producing boats that are as dependable as they're refined. Known for their durability, thoughtful layouts, and loyal following, Grady-White vessels have long been associated with serious anglers and offshore cruisers who demand reliability above all else.



Now, with the introduction of the Express 340, that reputation is making a stronger push into a very different kind of boating environment, Southern California.

While boating cultures on the East and West Coasts share common ground, the conditions they operate in are anything but identical. Southern California's offshore waters are defined by long-period swells, shifting wind patterns, dense morning fog, and extended runs between harbors and destinations. From Newport Beach to Dana Point, and south toward San Diego, boaters are

often covering significant distances, whether chasing offshore tuna, island hopping to Catalina, or cruising the coastline.

The arrival of the Express 340 presents a compelling question for local boaters: can a brand built in Atlantic conditions translate seamlessly into Pacific performance?

The answer, according to Boat Specialist Sales Manager Erik O'Brien, lies in how the boat was engineered from the ground up to handle dynamic conditions. "The Grady-White Express 340's design lends itself well to the West Coast's dynamic sea states with the combined product of stellar hull design, perfect balance, and sheer brute force in the form of reliable horsepower," O'Brien explained.

He added that the layout itself plays a major role in its adaptability. "The cockpit, helm, and cabin layouts provide an excellent balance between fishing capability, entertaining space, and comfortable accommodations to hide from the elements when the weather turns."



### **Built for Distance, Not Just Destination**

At its core, the Express 340 is designed to do something Southern California boaters value most, covering water efficiently and comfortably.

With a length of 34 feet and a beam just over 11 feet, the boat carries a presence that feels substantial without becoming cumbersome. Its hull, built on Grady-White's signature SeaV<sup>2</sup>® design, features a continuously variable deadrise that allows it to slice through chop while maintaining stability at rest. That balance is particularly important on the West Coast, where the ride out may be calm, but the ride home rarely is.

O'Brien emphasized that this seaworthiness is what truly defines the boat's performance in local waters. "This model lends itself so well to West Coast boating due to its wide range of versatility, but Grady-White's undeniable seaworthiness is what makes it so special," he said. "Running downhill in following or quartering seas is equally if not more comfortable and composed than smashing straight into the swell in the morning. Grady-White's SeaV2 hull provides industry leading comfort and confidence in the conditions you don't plan for, but often encounter."

For anglers running offshore banks like the 14 Mile or 181, or for those making the crossing to Catalina Island, comfort underway isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. The Express 340's hull is engineered to reduce pounding and maintain composure in quartering seas, giving operators confidence when conditions shift.

"Returning from the islands in high wind and swell can be a white knuckle experience on some boats, but not the Express 340," O'Brien added.

Powering the vessel are triple outboard engines, a configuration that continues to gain traction among West Coast boaters. Compared to traditional inboard setups, outboards offer easier maintenance, improved fuel efficiency, and more usable space at the transom. For Southern California users, where service accessibility and downtime can impact valuable time on the water, that practicality matters.

In addition to performance underway, the boat incorporates technology designed to simplify operation. "Grady-White has implemented smart technology to make running the boat an

absolute breeze,” O’Brien said. “Yamaha’s Helm Master EX systems, combined with an appropriately powered bow thruster allow the captain effective single-handed operation of the vessel.”



He pointed out that this becomes especially valuable in real-world scenarios familiar to local boaters. “This comes in particularly handy when navigating tight marinas in heavy wind, or snagging that mooring ball in Avalon with the help of some crew members who have never done it before or are a bit rusty.”

### **A One-Boat Solution for a Multi-Purpose Coastline**

One of the more interesting aspects of the Express 340 is how it aligns with the “do-it-all” mindset common among Southern California boaters.

Unlike regions where boats are often specialized for a single purpose, many West Coast owners are looking for versatility. A typical weekend might include offshore fishing one day and a family cruise the next. Add in overnight trips to Catalina or extended runs down the Baja coast, and the need for a hybrid vessel becomes clear.

O’Brien reinforced that the Express 340 was built with exactly that lifestyle in mind.

Once the day’s run is complete, the boat transitions seamlessly into a comfortable overnight platform. “Once you’ve snagged that tricky mooring ball at Catalina, or found your guest slip at the Yacht Club, you need not worry about a hotel room,” he said. “The Express 340’s V-berth, quarter berth, full stand-up wet head, and smartly equipped galley provide every creature comfort a discerning boater could ask for.”

At the same time, the boat stays true to its fishing roots. “Although the creature comforts are plentiful, this boat’s hard core fishing DNA shows through in its brilliant cockpit layout, tackle storage, livewell, tuna doors, fish boxes, and washdowns,” O’Brien added.

This dual-purpose design reflects a shift already happening within the Southern California boating community, toward vessels that can adapt to multiple uses without compromise.

### **Matching Pacific Conditions**

Perhaps the most important test for any vessel entering the Southern California market is how it handles the Pacific itself.

Unlike the shorter, more frequent chop found in other regions, Pacific swells tend to be longer, steeper, and less predictable. Afternoon winds can build quickly, and conditions that seem manageable in the morning can evolve into challenging runs home.

The Express 340’s fine entry and deep-V characteristics are specifically suited to cutting through these conditions rather than riding over them. That translates to a smoother ride, reduced fatigue for both captain and passengers, and greater confidence when operating in less-than-ideal weather.

For boaters accustomed to navigating the open waters off Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego, these aren’t theoretical benefits, they’re daily considerations.

## A Growing Presence on the West Coast

The introduction of the Express 340 also signals a broader expansion for Grady-White into the Western market.

Historically, availability and visibility have been limited compared to the brand's East Coast dominance. That is beginning to change, with increased efforts to bring models directly to West Coast buyers and showcase them in local settings.

The Express 340 made its debut appearance at the Newport Beach International Boat Show, offering Southern California boaters their first opportunity to step aboard and evaluate the vessel firsthand. For many, seeing the boat in person, experiencing the layout, materials, and overall build quality, provides a clearer understanding of how it fits into their boating lifestyle.

Additional showings, including dealer events, continue to expand access, allowing prospective buyers to explore the boat beyond a showroom environment.



## Why It Matters for Southern California Boaters

At a glance, the introduction of a new model might seem like routine industry news. But the Express 340 represents something more meaningful for the Southern California market.

It reflects a growing recognition that West Coast boating demands specific design considerations, longer runs, variable conditions, and multi-purpose use, and that manufacturers are beginning to respond accordingly.

For boaters, this means more options that are tailored to how they actually use their vessels, rather than adapting to designs built for different environments.

## The Bottom Line

The Grady-White Express 340 arrives at a time when Southern California boaters are asking more from their boats than ever before.

They want performance that can handle offshore runs, comfort that supports overnight trips, and versatility that fits a wide range of activities. They want reliability in changing conditions and efficiency that makes longer distances more accessible.

In that context, the Express 340 isn't just another addition to the market, it's a reflection of where boating is heading.

For those navigating the waters off Southern California, it offers a compelling combination: a boat built with the strength to handle the Pacific, the refinement to support extended use, and the flexibility to match the region's diverse boating lifestyle.

And for a community that measures its boats not just by specs, but by how they perform when it matters most, that may be what stands out above all else.