

Deck Boats

Azure 240

for 2009



Number of Occupants	Price As Tested With Power	Maximum MPH Speed	Horsepower As Tested	Number of Gates	0-20 MPH
12	\$54.2K	48.3	260	0	7.97

The Ed Factor
 POSITIVE: Fun to drive • Deep head compartment • Huge in-floor storage • All self-draining deck
 • Extended swim platform **ONE THING I'D CHANGE:** Burl wood on helm and steering wheel doesn't tie in to anything else.

> Why We Love This Boat
 The high quality look and feel, as well as the great use of space earned this boat high marks in almost every category of our test. It's well-built and we love the sporty look.

> Just Being Picky
 The pop-up arm rests for the bow lounges are a great idea, but they're positioned too high to really be comfortable on this model.

OUR FIRST IMPRESSION

We've tested enough Azure deck boats over the years that we've come to expect a lot from this manufacturer. But somehow this boat seemed to go beyond our high expectations based on our first glance and we couldn't wait to get our hands on it.

CONSUMER TEST

The best place to start is the safety features. We love the extended tapered swim deck that fully covers the outdrive. Included in this swim platform is a stereo remote, plus a solid four-step telescopic ladder that is easily visible to the driver. And with minimal effort you can convert the rear bench seat into a full stern sundeck lounge where you can adjust the back rest for maximum comfort. With the tall seatbacks and deep freeboard, this is a very safe vessel for those with young kids. Plus we love all the grab rails throughout the boat.

In the bow are two nice and long chaise lounges that you can really stretch out on. The pop-up arm rests are a good idea, but on this model they seemed a little too high to really be considered useful. The walk-thru windshield locks in both the open and closed position and the mid-ship door helps block the wind when needed. The in-floor storage has two doors and is large enough for most water toys.

Across from the helm is a large head compartment that includes a toilet, washdown, sink, light and a vented window. There is even a small shelf and a place to hang up your wet suit.

At the sporty-looking helm are large easy-to-read Faria gauges as well as a JBL stereo, locking glove box, depth finder and a 12-volt outlet, plus you not only

have an MP3 jack, but you also have a place to put your iPod.
 Behind the captain is an entertainment center that includes a sink and an electric faucet as well as a portable cooler that hides below.

INSPECTION TEST

The deep V hull with vented reverse chine has two full-length strakes and two three-quarter strakes and the gel coat and mold work is outstanding. The composite stringers are encapsulated with flotation foam being used in the hull construction.

There is splash protection on the bilge vents and the stainless steel thru hulls are also a nice added touch.

Inside the boat there is over 12 feet of usable deck space, and the furniture bases are molded with a full liner. High-quality stainless hardware is used throughout, and overall this boat earned high marks for its exceptional fit and finish work, mold work and construction quality.

There are no gates on this model, which usually raises some safety concerns, but because of the deep freeboard and high seat backs, a stern gate is not needed on this particular model.

PERFORMANCE TEST

She flirted with the 50-mile-per hour mark at full throttle with the 5.0 MPI Bravo III MerCruiser engine. The unique hull means you don't take the pounding that you get with some hulls in really rough water and the Sure Trac Hull design is ideal for slower speeds. She turns easily and banks well in sharp corners. Acceleration out of the hole is strong, yet gradual, and we had a lot of fun driving this Azure.



FINAL THOUGHTS

Fair or not, the Azure usually comes with high expectations when it comes to our boat test, but the AZ 240 lived up to the hype, without any disappointments. We consider this deck boat to be a safe family boat with exceptional craftsmanship and plenty of great features, most of them standard.

NOTABLE STANDARDS

1250 GPH improved automatic bilge pump w/ electronic switching, 21-gallon pressurized freshwater shower in the stern, aft convertible sunpad (3 positions), battery disconnect switch, cockpit wetbar with sink and storage, dual open back helm seats with suspension system and flip-up bolster, fiberglass 2-piece head compartment, fiberglass non-skid cockpit with overboard drains, fire extinguisher, opening porthole with screen in head, integrated 25-quart cooler, iPod holder, towel hook in head compartment, and under-floor storage.

OPTIONS ON TEST BOAT

Adjustable height bucket seat pedestal (port and/or starboard), bow-mounted dinette table, bow shower, bow windscreen door, snap-in carpet, transom tilt switch, flip-up arm rests, Porta-Pottie and transom-mounted stereo remote control.

BOAT SPECS

LOA..... 24'
 Beam..... 8' 6"
 Hull Design..... Deep V
 Dry Weight 4311 lbs.
 Fuel Capacity 55 Gallons

ENGINE

Engine..... Mercury 5.0 MPI Bravo III
 Cylinder Type V8
 Cubic-inch Displacement/Horsepower 305ci /260hp
 Lower Unit Gear Ratio 2.2:1
 Propeller 14 1/2 X 19

RPM	vs. SPEED	vs. DBA
500	3.4 mph	85
1000	4.2 mph	91
1500	7 mph	88
2000	9.3 mph	95
2500	14.7 mph	95.5
3000	22.8 mph	94.5
3500	29.6 mph	97.5
4000	36.7 mph	100
4500	41.1 mph	100.5
5000	46.2 mph	102
5200	48.3 mph	105.5

PRICES

Price As Tested..... \$54,236
 (Boat and Motor)