

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer (2015-)

Brief Summary

The venerable 470 Sundancer has been around for years but this latest redesign significantly alters the boat. Previously, her primary focus was as a dayboat for sunning and entertaining a small homogeneous group. For 2015, the new 470 Sundancer has an enclosed coupe and the layout was designed as one continuous entertaining space between the exterior cockpit, interior salon and fore-and-aft settee adjacent to the two-person helm. Below, there is a much larger mid cabin with a diagonal queen bed. The result is, that while the overall dimensions remain the same, weight has been increased 20% to 34,300 lbs. (15,558 kg) over the 2011 model we last tested. The design is much more versatile for entertaining and more comfortable below for luxury cruising.

Price

Base Price\$1158260.00

Prices, features, designs, and equipment are subject to change. Please see your local dealer or visit the builder's website for the latest information available on this boat model.


Key Features

- Optional extended cockpit sunshade
- SkyFlow design brings light and air deep into the boat
- Seamless connection between cockpit and salon via three-pane door and flush threshold
- Standard inboard propulsion with optional Joystick Control or optional Zeus propulsion
- Climate-controlled cockpit sunroom with electric sunroof and opposing seating
- 2 staterooms with double berths and private heads
- Standard Raymarine e125 widescreen radar/chartplotter combo

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
600	5.5	4.7	1.1	5	4.3	1561	1357.1	59
1000	7.5	6.5	3.5	2.1	1.9	675	587	65

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
1250	9.1	7.9	5.6	1.6	1.4	512	445.1	67
1500	10.2	8.8	9.8	1	0.9	326	283.7	74
1750	11.2	9.7	15.7	0.7	0.6	225	195.4	75
2000	12.8	11.1	20.1	0.6	0.6	200	174.2	75
2250	15.8	13.7	25.4	0.6	0.5	196	170.2	76
2500	22	19.1	29.9	0.7	0.6	231	201.1	78
2750	27.9	24.2	34.2	0.8	0.7	257	223.1	79
3000	31.4	27.3	38	0.8	0.7	260	226	81
3250	35.8	31.1	45.5	0.8	0.7	248	215.8	81
3350	36.9	32.1	48.8	0.8	0.7	238	207.3	81

[View the test results in metric units](#)


Specifications

Length Overall	47' 3" / 14.40 m
BEAM	14' 4.27 m
Dry Weight	34,300 lbs. 15,558 kg
Tested Weight	36,850 lbs. 16,715 kg

Draft	51" 130 cm
Draft Up	
Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	19-deg.
Max Headroom	N/A
Bridge Clearance	N/A
Weight Capacity	
Person Capacity	
Fuel Capacity	350 gal. 1,325 L
Water Capacity	100 gal. 378 L
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	36,850 lbs. 16,715 kg
Aft Deck	
Salon Inside Width	

Salon Fore & Aft	
Salon Height	
Salon Volume	
Galley Volume	
Master SR Width	
Master SR fore & Aft	
Master SR Overhead	
Master SR Volume	
Eng. Room Volume	

Acceleration Times & Conditions

Time to Plane	9.3 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	N/A
Props	Standard
Load	5 persons, 3/4 fuel, 3/4 water, 50 lbs. of gear
Climate	72 deg., 61 humid.; wind: 5-10 mph; seas: light chop

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer profile shot

The Sea Ray 470 Sundancer has a LOA of 47'3" (14.40 m), a beam of 14' (4.27 m) and a dry weight of 34,300 lbs. (15,558 kg) with V-Drives and a dry weight of 33,700 lbs. (15,286 kg) with Zeus Drives.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Sea Ray 470 Sundancer is generally to provide an indoor/outdoor entertainment platform that has three separate venues for hanging out on the main deck. By creating a glass bulkhead with sliding door the boat has been transformed into an all-weather vessel with a 12,000 BTU AC/Heating system to make the main cabin as comfortable as possible in any condition. Below, the builder has moved space from the settee and galley into the mid stateroom, enlarging it to a point where the 470 Sundancer now has what can only be considered two master staterooms. Further, her new exterior styling makes her look fast and modern which should appear to the new generation of nautical fashionistas.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer main deck floor plan

The main deck floor plan of the 470 Sundancer has eliminated the large aft sun pad and in its place created a good-sized L-shaped settee with table and small wet bar all outside the enclosed coupe. Inside, two opposing sofas create a salon along with the helm and fore and aft settees have all been places under the hardtop. A new bulkhead with slider door has been added, making the salon and helm A/C efficient and weather tight.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer lower deck layout

Below, by moving the mid cabin's forward bulkhead towards the bow this space has been increased by nearly one-third permitting the installation of a diagonal queen bed and two nearly equal staterooms. All of this has been done at the expense of the settee and galley. But now since the main deck is enclosed above, vessel use will shift significantly, with the lower deck being used primarily just when cruising.

Major Features

- Climate-controlled cockpit sunroom with huge, electric sunroof and opposing seating

- SkyFlow design brings light and air deep into the boat
- Standard Raymarine e125 Widescreen Radar/Chartplotter combo
- Standard inboard propulsion with optional Joystick Control or optional Zeus propulsion = Two staterooms with double berths and private heads
- Social floor plan with seamless connection between cockpit and salon via three-pane door
- Optional extended cockpit sunshade provides sun coverage for all seated positions

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer running shot

Standard propulsion is V-drive inboards but Zeus pods are an attractive alternative providing enhanced maneuverability.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer running shot

Underway the 470 Sundancer exhibits a roughly 5-degree bow high attitude. Note how the cockpit has been extended aft, eliminating the reverse transom sun pad box. Now, the table in the cockpit can be lowered and with a filler cushion becomes a large sun pad.

Performance

The Sea Ray 470 Sundancer has a LOA of 47'3" (14.4 m), a beam of 14' (4.27 m) and a draft of 48" (122 cm) with pod drives. With a pair of 480-hp Cummins diesels turning those pods we reached a top speed of 28.7 kt at 3100 rpm. At that speed we were burning 41.3 gph for a range of 219.2 nm. Her most economical cruise came in at 3000 rpm and 27.3 kt. That speed reduced the fuel burn to 38 gph and increased the range to 226 nm. But the simple fact is that this best economy is marginally changed as we increase the throttles on up to full power. In fact, from 2750 rpm up she'll travel at a consistent .7 nmpg, so this is really a boat that allows one to set the throttle based on the prevailing conditions rather than a concern over economy.

Handling

The 470 Sundancer is a great boat to handle. She has good wave penetration and while she throws water low and wide, the prevailing winds still managed to pick some of that up and send it back into the windshield, as expected. But the real beauty of being able to test in windy conditions was to experience for ourselves that comfort level, and we were impressed. There was no pounding, none, and this made the ride self-evident that guests onboard would be right at home on a long cruise with this boat.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer 17 degree turn

In turns, the 470 Sundancer leans 17-degrees into the turns, remaining comfortable throughout. Even more impressive was how stable she was in these conditions. Yes, we've been around boats a lot so the fact that our sea legs were accustomed to an uneven running platform had some sway, but the simple fact is that we were able to negotiate our way around the boat at all times without having to apply a death grip to rails and furniture to steady ourselves. That also bodes well for having guests aboard that may have little experience with being on the water.

Features Inspection

Sea Ray completely redesigned the layout of the main deck to feature a theme of openness and light. It calls this design SkyFlow and not only does it serve to blur the line between inside and outside, but it carries the open feel of light deep into the lower decks.

Main Deck Interior

It's hard not to be impressed at the first glance of the main deck. With no structures, such as a flying bridge, above the overhead, Sea Ray was able to take full advantage of the minimal support required for the hardtop and virtually surrounds the deck with wide windows. Of course privacy may become a concern with all this glass. Opt for the wood blinds (\$1,250) in Light Cherry, Dark Cherry or Walnut. We'd also add the high gloss finish to the wood cabinetry (\$10,000). There's also an emphasis on creating a seamless transition from the forward end of the cockpit to the forward windshield by having all the decking being on a single level. There does however, seem to be a focus on gathering and entertaining with a distinct move away from a more formal dining area. This change is no-doubt the result of owner feedback.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer main deck

Here's an excellent representative example of the builder's "SkyFlow" that adds so much light into the boat. The main deck is a single level all the way to the windshield.

To the rear of the main deck, Sea Ray created a multi-use cockpit that can be used for dining, sunning or entertaining. Inside the salon dual sofas serve to create a cozy conversational atmosphere and the light colored upholstery serves as an excellent counterpart to the contrasting dark tones of the deck and bulkheads. Wood flooring (\$5,000) is an added option.

The aft doors

are powder coated, aluminum framed with tinted glass. The overhead has a fiberglass hardtop with an electric retractable sunroof. A stainless steel refrigerator is included as standard equipment. Forward is a 32" (81 cm) flatscreen TV with Blu-Ray player.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer glass doors

Triple opening glass doors blur the line between inside and outside. Dual sofas create opposing seating for intimate gathering and conversations.

Helm

The helm station features a doublewide seat with individual flip up bolsters to allow operations from the standing position if desired. (FYI – There is ample standing headroom without having to open the sun roof, unlike some European designs.) The seats are mounted to a heavy duty pedestal with a pneumatic vertical adjustment, something rarely seen on any size boat.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer tinted windows

The side windows are tinted, and that lower window lifts electrically with a switch at the helm. This provides much welcome ventilation but when raised, the two windows together make it too dark to see out the side. Best to close the window when docking starboard side to.

The faux wood-grain dash panel has open space for optional electronics. Sea Ray offers a Raymarine e165 widescreen color LCD with radar/GPS/chartplotter as the primary display (\$5,750). A second aux display (\$13,333) can mount right next to that. With the Zeus pod drive system (\$78,333), autopilot integration is included, otherwise for the V-drives, an autopilot can be ordered separately (\$6,250).

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer helm console

We're glad to see that Sea Ray includes defogger windshield vents. The joystick is well behind and to starboard. The SmartCraft control sticks has a comfortable height that we always find welcome when driving from the standing position.

Maneuverability for the Timid Boat Handler

While on the subject of pod systems, let's address the many ways this boat can be maneuvered and how it can be enhanced. For starters, the 470 Sundancer is delivered as standard with V-drive inboards. Some boaters, and certainly the long time captains, will find this perfectly acceptable and will do just fine with this system. Others... not so much. For the more faint of heart there are solutions.

First there's the ever-popular Zeus pod drives

with joystick functionality (\$78,333). This is a pricey, but extremely functional solution. Generally-speaking in this size and type boat pod drives are more fuel efficient than conventional inboards. But that is a fuel savings over inboards that will rarely make up for the pod-drive up charge.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer pods

Our test boat was fitted with Zeus pods with joystick controls that made docking as easy as could be. With this system, insecurity about handling the boat around the docks should not be a deterrent towards the purchasing decision.

A simpler, and more cost-effective solution

is to add a bow thruster (\$13,417). This will increase the maneuverability of the 470 Sundancer, and the capability of its captain tenfold at only 1/6th the cost. With a practiced hand there's virtually no docking situation that can't be managed with this system, but the operative word here is "practiced". It still takes a skill set. And in some circumstances such as strong cross current perpendicular to a tight slip, the bow thrust alone may not be enough.

Another option to increase that maneuverability

is to add both a bow and stern thruster (\$16,667). Now all the maneuvers that pod driven boats enjoy are accessible with this system, still at a fraction of the cost. But of course we still don't get that all too cool joystick addition to our panel. Not to fret.

Joystick coupling to provide ease of handling

and connectivity between the V-drives and the thrusters is offered for either the bow only, or the bow and stern thruster combination. A joystick for the bow-only setup adds \$25,917 for a total of \$39,334. A joystick connecting both thrusters with the V-drives adds \$29,167 for a total of \$45,834. Still a far cry from the \$78,333 for the pod drives and there's still all the maneuverability, yes including sideways maneuvers, to make everyone at the dock ooh and ahh at the boater's mastery of the helm.

Main Deck Exterior

As the party moves outside, the cockpit becomes the main gathering area and this is as much a social location as the rest of the boat. L-shaped seating across the stern lies opposite an outdoor galley minimizing the travel needed for topping off the drinks and serving food. A cockpit grill (\$3,058) is sure to be a popular option. Standard items include the sink with faucet, solid surface countertop, a trash receptacle and storage. Teak decking can be added (\$7,500) as an option. An optional extendable shade (\$12,500) deploys from the aft end of the hardtop above. Not that we would ever expect this boat to be used for a fishing trip but there are two rod holders in the side caprails, one to each side. Forward, on the foredeck, there's a pair of chaise lounges with protecting side rails for safety and this makes a second external gathering area.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer side decks

Side decks to both port and starboard are well equipped with side rails and grab handles, making the transition to the bow safe.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer bow

Although the pads are removed here, we can still see how the area is inviting with its rails and drink holders.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer profile shot

In profile, the new 470 Sundancer has the classic Sea Ray signature swooping rub rail which also serves as the hull-deck joint. The black graphics, windshield mullions and engine room air intake grill, all go to help make the boat look sleek, fast and modern.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer outdoor gatherings

For outdoor gatherings, it's hard to compete with this social area. Notice the grab handles to aid in the transition to the side decks. The transom door has a steel frame with acrylic insert.

Mechanical Components

There are two ways to access the engine room. Simple daily checks can be done via a hatch in the salon. More intensive inspections can be done by electrically actuating the cockpit deck, exposing a much more expansive section of the engine room. Sea Ray uses a pair of Cummins QSB 6.7 480 HO engines with V-drive inboard propulsion as standard.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer hatches

Here we can see the salon hatch and the cockpit hatch, both leading to the engine room with the twin Cummins engines turning Zeus pods.

The engine room is insulated for sound attenuation with 2" (5.1 cm) of loaded vinyl barrier. Racor filters are provided for the mains and fuel lines are all type A-1. Fuel tanks are aluminum with electric shutoff valves and ultrasonic sending units. We'd add the oil change system (\$1,500) with which to service the mains, generator and transmissions. Standard generator is a 13.5 kW diesel with sound shield, remote start, muffler, freshwater cooling, fuel filter with crossover, seacock and seawater strainer.

Underwater Gear

With V-drives the 2" (5.1 cm) stainless steel shafts run through dripless shaft logs and are connected to 4-blade Nibral propellers. Rudders are Manganese-Bronze. With Zeus, the aft-facing propellers are stainless

steel with integrated trim tabs.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer sunshade

With the sunshade deployed the gatherings in the cockpit can continue throughout the day for those who want UV protection. The opening sunroom brings the fresh air into the main deck and right through the triple-wide glass doors to those in the cockpit.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer side decks

Side decks aren't particularly wide but they do provide a safe transition to the bow.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer bow

Well, here's a shot we don't usually see... a guy relaxing on the bow instead of bikini-clad models.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer inside and outdoor

Here's a perfect example of the blurred line between inside and outside. (Play it again, Sam.)

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer running bow shot

Standard equipment on the pointy end includes the galvanized anchor, stainless steel roller, a windlass, a rope and chain rode, two gas-assist hatches and a washdown spigot. This stainless steel anchor is offered as an option (\$1,833), as is the remote controlled spotlight (\$2,250). Switch to an all chain rode for \$1,000.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer still shot

Notice how as the deck dips downward as the eyes move forward the rail height stays nearly level. This increases the safety factor as we move towards the working end of the bow.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer swim platform

The full beam swim platform extends 5' (1.52 m) from the transom and includes the reboarding ladder to the port side. Teak decking is available as an option (\$9,500). A hydraulic platform can also be added (\$46,667) to serve as a launching point for a tender or PWC.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer running shot

A radar arch is included in the design to mount the antennas and this keeps the area functional for the opening sunroof. Notice how the rail height extends well aft on the sidedecks.

Lower Deck

Heading below is now via an atrium that draws its light from above with an open companionway and larger hullside windows. This all allows for an interior that is more brightly lit and transitions between each of the boats areas is seamless. The lower deck is climate controlled from a 24,000 BTU reverse cycle system. A central vacuum system is offered (\$1,000) as a major convenience consideration.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer lower deck

The main social area of the lower deck is completely exposed with natural light from the open area above.

A small sofa lies to starboard

and it's much more. It includes a full entertainment center with a gaming system port, iPod interface docking station, an MP3 port, a stereo with wireless Bluetooth, Sirius satellite receiver, amplifier, speakers, a 32" (81 cm) LED Smart TV with Blu-Ray player and DVD storage.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer atrium entry

The atrium entry to the lower decks allows for a continuation of the open feel of the upper decks while at the same time carrying the light deeper into the lower decks.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer couch

This area across from the galley is another unusual feature in that it speaks of another place to relax and unwind. Of course this area does have the expected benefit of converting to a third sleeping area.

The galley is to port

and features include a solid surface countertop with a stainless steel sink, faucet and sink cover to add to the useable counter space. All lighting is 12V. Appliances include a microwave, a dual voltage refrigerator/freezer, and a two-burner stove with a black glass top.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer galley

The galley is well equipped with the usual cast of appliances. Plus additional hull side windows add still more light. The two staterooms are private behind shoji-style doors handcrafted from solid wood with translucent screens.

The aft stateroom is full beam

and a queen-sized berth is mounted at an angle providing more room. It includes an innerspring mattress and standard bedding. The privacy door features a full-length mirror. As for the head, this has the toilet and shower separate from the sink and vanity. Both arrangements allow for a more efficient use of space.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer full beam stateroom

The full beam aft features an island berth set at an angle to provide more room.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer aft head

The aft head features an enclosed shower and separate toilet. The sink and vanity are outside the compartment. Notice how the mirror is angled to provide a functional image while allowing for the space to have the hull side window below.

The forward stateroom

features a full-size berth with an innerspring mattress with included bedding. Decking is carpeted wall-to-wall. Gunwale cabinets are above to port and starboard with additional storage in the deck, in two hanging lockers and two drawers under the bed. This stateroom includes a “split” head with the water closet to port and the enclosed shower to starboard. Flooring is tile and a VacuFlush head is standard. The vanity includes a solid surface countertop with a single basin sink and storage below. The shower door has a full length mirror and allows access from the forward stateroom. Flooring is also tile here. The shower includes a seat with an adjustable wand faucet.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer forward stateroom

The forward stateroom features an island queen and we always applaud Sea Ray when we see such excellent use of space such as the overhead storage and under berth drawers. And none of this interferes with the use of the opening portlights.

Sea Ray 470 Sundancer split head

The split head arrangement for the forward stateroom has the shower in a separate compartment from the head and vanity.

Pricing

As we would expect, there are a myriad of options available for the 470 Sundancer. Base pricing starts at \$1,064,653 and builds from there. Checking off some of the more popular options available, and mentioned throughout this report, brought the MSRP up to \$1,259,694.

Observations

It's always nice to see when a company doesn't sit on its laurels and maintain the status quo. Here, not only is Sea Ray constantly improving the breed but it does so with a keen eye towards customer feedback and out-of-the-box thinking.