



They say good things come in small packages and proving the point is the new Qwest 7516 Cruise. Measuring just over 16 feet long, this compact pontoon is big on features that will entertain up to eight people in comfort. Qwest makes maximum use of the space with a pair of couches in the bow, including one with a chaise lounge. There's an L-lounge in the rear that, like the others, is upholstered in 33-oz. SRT X-Panded vinyl and features built-in cupholders.

Powering the 7516 Cruise is the older carbureted version of Honda's BF40. A newer EFI model BF40 is making its way to market as we speak and features quicker starting, punchier acceleration and better fuel economy. As you would expect, this engine gives the Qwest rather modest performance as evidenced by the top speed of 16.5

miles per hour. While you could tow small children safely on inflatables, the whole point of this boat is cruising and smelling the water lilies as you motor about. One benefit of its compact design is that it is a perfect candidate for the new Torqeedo 24-volt electric motor that will allow owners to experience the ultimate quiet ride on lakes that prohibit combustion engines. In fact, a Qwest representative says they probably sell more of their compact pontoons with electric power than with conventional outboards.

The 7516 is Qwest's most luxurious model and comes with an impressive package of standard features. The deluxe captain's chair has armrests for comfort and adjusts and swivels. The driver sits behind a well-provisioned console that is appropriately sized to maximize cockpit space and has an Italian-design sport wheel. In addition to the usual array of stainless steel-bezeled instruments, you get a Humminbird fishfinder and a JBL CD MP3 stereo. A nice touch is the built-in battery chargers. This is the Cruise model, but Qwest also makes a Fish model for those looking to hook up.

3 FAVORITE STANDARDS Bimini top, built-in battery chargers, Humminbird fishfinder

3 FAVORITE OPTIONS Mooring cover, power anchor bracket, washdown hose

To see video of our boat test, go to boatingworld.com and click on Buyers Guide.

SPECIFICATIONS

TEST BOAT STATS

LENGTH
16 ft., 5 in.

BEAM
7 ft., 6 in.

CAPACITY
8 people/
1,145 lbs.

DRY WEIGHT
1,175 lbs.

FUEL CAPACITY
12 gals.

MAXIMUM HP
40

DEADRISE
N/A



PERFORMANCE

	MPH	RPM	MPG	RANGE (MILES)	DBA
PEAK	16.5	4000	7.5	90	82
CRUISE	6.7	2000	9.57	114	68
TIME TO PLANE					5.3 seconds
0-30 MPH					N/A

TEST POWER

MOTOR Honda BF40

PRICE

WITH TEST POWER	\$16,826
MERCURY 9.9 HP ELPT	\$13,970
YAMAHA F-20 20 HP	\$14,839