



PICS: MARLON PLATT

LAKE EILDON, UP IN VICTORIA'S HIGH COUNTRY, MIGHT BE A BIT NIPPY IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER, BUT IT PROVED A GREAT LOCATION TO PUT SPY'S TS21 THROUGH ITS PACES.

# THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD TS21





“WHETHER WE WERE FLAT OUT IN A STRAIGHT LINE OR CUTTING CIRCLES LIKE A DRAG BOAT DRIVER, THROWING THIS BOAT AROUND ON EILDON GLASS WAS AN ABSOLUTE JOY.”

The Waterski Mag team tagged along while Glen Ridge and his crew from Channel 9’s “Boatique” show shot footage of the Spy range during June. Fortunately, Lake Eildon decided to put on some glass on for us, and the sun even came out after a foggy start to a chilly winter’s day.

Spy Boats came about last year after Peter Webb’s Performance Marine and the Whitley Marine Group joined forces.

Since then this new player has made a solid push onto the market, releasing a range of ski and wakeboard boats, with an emphasis on producing a quality product that is ideal for families who are serious about their watersports.

The company was recently boosted when it scooped the award for 2008 Australian Ski Boat of the Year at the Australian Marine Industry Manufacturers (AMIF) awards for its 22ft rear-mount RX22, which is the big brother of the TS21.

#### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

At first look, the TS21 is a nicely balanced and designed boat. Spy benefits from Whitley’s state-of-the-art computer aided design (CAD) capabilities, plus a wealth of experience from Peter Webb as to what exactly customers want and need in a versatile ski boat.

The lines of the boat look aggressive, helped by graphics that accentuate the shape. The test boat looked very fine in blue, and of course there’s a range of colours to suit individual preferences.



#### POWER

The Mercruiser tow sport range of engines is the choice of power for Spy Boats.

The test boat was fitted with Mercury’s 5.7 litre 315HP engine, which is the standard motor in all Spy models. This motor can be upgraded to the beefier 330HP if you’re looking for a bit more speed and overall power. For those who want to go all out, the 6.2 litre 340HP option is also available. The 315 was more than adequate in the TS21, with instant usable power available from down low right through to the upper rev range. The engine is matched to Mercruiser’s forward/neutral/reverse gearbox, which is precise and easy to use via the hand throttle.

#### INTERIOR

This is where the TS21 really firms itself in the quality department. This boat has absolutely every aspect of the interior covered, whether it be in quality, features, storage, comfort or space.

The interior is cleverly thought out and very well finished. With crafty inserts, patterns and colour ranges, you can tell by first touch only A-grade materials are used, and the craftsmanship is of the highest quality. No matter where you sit in this boat, there is plenty of room for everyone to stretch their legs, right from the walk-through open bow area, down to the three individual seats in the back. The driver scores a nifty little station



to control the ship from, including an easy to read and distinctive dual-gauge dash. Two large gauges – containing speedo and tachometer as well as minor readings like fuel, temp, battery and oil – are both practical and eye catching.

Another nice touch is the keyless ignition, which simply requires the driver to push a start button after initiating a security code at the start of the day.

The storage options in this rig are endless. There’s room for eight people in total, plus plenty of equipment.

There is a large storage area behind the observer’s lounge, plus more storage in the side pockets along each side of the boat, and in the big ski locker at the rear of the boat.

There are also small storage compartments on either side of the motor for your gloves etc, as well as a lockable glovebox for all phones, wallets, keys and other random accessories.

Another notable feature of the interior is the pop-in / pop-out bimini. Instead of having thumbscrews to mount, the bimini just clips in and out without the hassle of loosening screws.

Out the back, the moulded water-level platform has plenty of room for skier’s and boarders to get organised before hopping into the drink.



**PERFORMANCE / HANDLING**

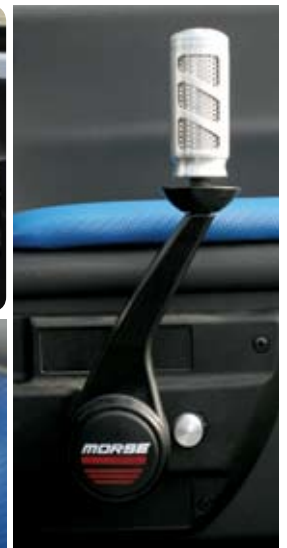
As mentioned, the power from Mercruiser's 315HP engine is well matched to the hull, providing strong acceleration out of the hole and plenty of power for slalom skiers and barefooters, as well as feeling nice and relaxed at lower wakeboarding speeds.

The handling of the TS21 is top notch. The well-designed hull enables the boat to maintain a precise balance and feel, even under very hard cornering.

Whether we were flat out in a straight line or cutting circles like a jet boat driver, throwing this boat around on E-I-don glass was an absolute joy. It also cuts nicely through boat wakes and chop, without any shakes or rattles. The steering is light and accurate, and the feeling from the cockpit is one of overall confidence in the boat.

**CONCLUSION**

Spy Boats have created a very well rounded machine for families who enjoy a variety of watersports as well some quality boating. With its spacious layout, power, appealing aesthetics and great handling, this boat is a great package. Whether skiing, wakeboarding, or just cruising, the TS21 has all bases covered.



**SPECIFICATIONS**

Length:	6.4m (21ft) including platform
Beam:	2.1m
Seating:	8 people
Fuel Capacity:	120 litres
Engine Options:	Mercruiser tow sport range (315 – 340HP)
Priced From:	\$53,000
Contact:	Performance Marine (03) 9465 4555
Web:	spyboats.com.au



**OUT THE BACK**

The TS21 is created with the watersports family in mind, and the emphasis is on creating an excellent slalom and barefoot wake.

At higher speeds, you can expect a pearler of a slalom wash, giving a nice flat path to carve up.

This boat is also available in a wakeboard version, the XS21, which can be optioned up with features like a tower, speakers, lights, board racks etc.

At wakeboarding speeds of around 20mph, riders can expect a clean consistent wake. Keeping in mind this boat is a mind-mount, there is plenty of room for fartsacks, whether it be in the bow, down beside the motor, across the back seat, or even in the rear locker, for those who will be looking to add some extra weight.



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CAME IN FROM THE COLD **TS21**