

For Immediate Release

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BENĒTEAU FIRST 50 NAMED A BEST BOAT FOR 2007 BY *SAIL* MAGAZINE

Marion, SC... The Beneteau First 50 has been named a Best Boat for 2007 by *SAIL* Magazine. The results will be featured in *SAIL*'s January 2007 issue.

SAIL's Best Boats program is designed to seek out and acknowledge true innovation and forward thinking; the awards are based on firsthand knowledge of the new boats seen at the fall shows. *SAIL* editors Peter Nielsen and Kimball Livingston, editor-at large Charles Doane and Bill Springer combed the docks at the shows and have given Editors' Choice awards for innovation and overall excellence.

"Best Boats is not a contest in which there are winners and losers, but rather a celebration of true advancements in every aspect of sailboat production, from technology to design and execution. Our goal is to discover and reward the ideas and refinements that propel sailing into the 21st century," said Bill Springer.

There's often a certain sameness to boat interiors – unless the designer chooses to take a risk. Two boats were recognized by the Editors Choice awards for Excellence in Accommodations Design, one was the Beneteau First 50.

SAIL magazine said, "The First 50 has an aggressive, modern look above decks and below. Veerle Battiau has blended light wood, minimalist furniture, shiny grabrails, nickel-plated light fixtures, and a beautiful dark-stained, matte-finished sole into a wonderful expression of Now. But style doesn't diminish functionality at sea. The settees, with their squared-off corners, make excellent seaberths. Handholds are where they're supposed to be, countertops have suitable fiddles, and cabinet provide generous stowage. This is an excellent example of a fresh, new look at accommodations."

For more information about the Beneteau First 50 please visit www.beneteauusa.com.

Beneteau USA, the American division of the world's largest sailboat manufacturer, builds hundreds of 32-49 foot production sailboats, as well as the Swift Trawler 42, in Marion, SC and imports sailing yachts up to 57 feet in length from its parent company in France. The boats are sold through a network of over 40 dealers from the north in Alaska to the southern tip of Chile.

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