

WHEELHOUSE AND COCKPIT CRUISERS

Boarnstream Elegance 1300

Best known for its high-quality range of aft-cabin steel cruisers, the 1300 Elegance marks a sharp change of direction for Boarnstream. It's worked for the yard though, as the Elegance range has proved a genuine retail

success. It's no surprise given its stylish exterior, safe and comfortable interior and inherent steel boat toughness. The option to have one in aluminium with IPS that can top 20 knots widens the 1300's appeal further.

The full-displacement version we drove on test, with its single 180hp Volvo Penta D4, felt perfectly suited to the relaxed, laid-back cruising of the Dutch waterways. The ample keel keeps it on the straight and narrow and the vast glass area and sunroof ensure there is plenty of natural light within the stylish wheelhouse. The single Volvo Penta D4 180hp is refined and hushed with sound readings in the wheelhouse remaining commendably low, even when running flat out.

Though the idea behind the Elegance range is to attract younger buyers, the single-level living aspect of the deck design will also appeal to those who no longer want to traipse up and down stairs to move around.

The décor mixes Dutch solidity with Italian chic and feels fresh and inviting. The style never overwhelms substance though, as is the mantra with most boats that are put together in the Netherlands. It's a boat designed to be used.



FINALISTS



Bavaria E40



Botnia Targa 30.1



Rodman 890 Ventura



Sargo 33



XO 360

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Seaward 42

A boat that is so focused on seakeeping and tackling the very worst that the weather can throw at it deserves recognition. Fastidious attention to practicality and on-board safety make it a true rough-weather cruiser, and Seaward's attitude towards customisation means no two 42s need be the same.

