

## What They're Saying

Here is a sampling of comments from the readers who took our survey on sailing schools.

### **Club Nautique** (San Francisco)

- “The staff, the boats and the instructors are so top notch. They make you feel like you are part of the family as soon as you walk through the door and they are dedicated to your longterm sailing journey.”
- “Very good about man-overboard drills and other safety issues. Some instructors had a much better bedside manner than others.”
- “Best sailing school in the most challenging sailing area of the U.S.”

### **Advantage Boating** (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada)

- “Excellent staff and a keelboat boat-share program that let us ease into cruising before we bought our first boat.”

### **Bay Sail** (Havre De Grace, Md.)

- “They just need more wind and less crab pots. But the staff is great.”

### **Biscayne Bay Sailing Academy** (Miami, Fla.)

- “The main drawback was the condition of the boats, but it got one accustomed to dealing with and fixing problems. The instructor was top notch.”

### **Black Rock Sailing School** (Boston Harbor, Mass.)

- “I have taken lessons at a few other schools, and this is by far the best. New boats. Fantastic instructor that was concerned about my learning. Small class.”

### **Blue Water Sailing School** (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.)

- “The instructor taught the material fairly well, but he was quite unprofessional.”
- “Excellent program. A big plus is the fact that you live aboard the boats for the week. This provides a much greater learning experience than just daysailing lessons.”

### **Charleston Sailing School** (Charleston, S.C.)

- “Very personalized instruction and small classes give students the opportunity for lots of hands-on experience. Did a five-day live-aboard with just one other student. It was a terrific experience!”

### **Colgate Offshore Sailing School**

- “Fantastic experience with a fun instructor and awesome location. The BVI has to be one of the best places to sail.”
- “The option to take the US Sailing program vs the Colgate course should be discussed before starting the class. Also, all of the resort fees and sailing fees should be included in the upfront pricing.”

### **Discovery Sailing** (Chester Basin, Nova Scotia, Canada)

- “Owner Dave DeWolfe has decades of seagoing experience, has very extensive knowledge and loves to teach. Active instruction went on for about 12 hours/day, and he took a personal interest in the progress of everyone in the course. Tough on the final test for certification, too, so if you got certified, you'd learned the material.”

### **Fairwind Sailing School** (Lake Erie)

- “Better equipment would be appreciated. But, these guys are very knowledgeable and more importantly, downright fun to sail with.”

### **J-World**

- “Conditions were hairy (25-30kts) but made for challenging experience. Highly recommended for the serious student.” (San Francisco/Oakland)
- “Both venues were really top flight sailing destinations. The quality of the education was as good as it could possibly be.” (Newport, Key West)

### **Lake Lanier Sailing Academy** (Lake Lanier, Ga.)

- “Great, fun instructors with a no-yelling policy. School focuses on application/experience learning, rather than the classroom.”

### **Maryland School of Sailing** (Rock Hall, Md.)

- “I have really appreciated the professional demeanor of the Maryland School staff, all of whom have significant USCG credentials, and the philosophy of longer duration courses at each level. The Maryland

School is superb.”

- “Students have plenty of time to get comfortable with concepts and practical application. It is a great resource for beginning and intermediate cruising sailors.”

### **New Jersey Sailing School** (Point Pleasant, N.J.)

- “First rate, experienced, easy-going instructor.”
- “The boats were fine quality for beginners but I imagine more modern equipment would be helpful as training progresses. Excellent mentor sail program and boat rentals for practice sailing.”
- “The instructors were great, it's just the equipment and boats were not in good shape.”

### **Olympic Circle Sailing Club** (San Francisco)

- “The school is good, but I would have appreciated it the instructors had corrected my mistakes on the spot, rather than later at the briefing.”
- “The sailing conditions are the best you can get with a combination of light and heavy air sailing. This combined with the 1 in 3 ratio of teacher to student makes the best sailing instruction possible.!”
- “The instruction is rigorous because SF Bay is a demanding environment, but it's always fun as well. Every student gets the attention they need.”

### **Tradewinds Sailing School** (Richmond, Calif.)

- “Family operations, great support, friendliest bunch, no pressure, real confidence builders. Low priced, lots of boats to choose from. You can't ask for better.”
- “The owners, instructors, and staff are knowledgeable, experienced, fun, helpful, and have a genuine interest in each student learning and getting the most out of their sailing classes.”