

# Bristol fashion

**Rob McCabe** takes a look at a stylish new two-berther built in the south-west



Above: three sunroofs and a panoramic front window create a delightfully airy feel

Far left: 6ft 3in long sofas convert easily into a very comfortable double bed



## TECHNICAL RATINGS



93%

BUILD QUALITY

93%

TOWING

94%

DAYTIME

88%

NIGHT-TIME

90%

KITCHEN

89%

WASHROOM

88%

LIGHTING

91%

VERDICT



**Price as tested**  
£22,964 OTR



**Beds**  
Front double  
6ft 6in x 4ft 10in  
or front singles  
6ft 3in x 2ft 3in  
(x2)



**MRO**  
1,203kg  
(23.68cwt)

**MTPLM**  
1,326kg  
(26.10cwt)



**Heating**  
Alde  
programmable

**Fridge**  
Dometic 133-litre  
fridge/freezer

**Toilet**  
Thetford C-260



**User payload**  
123kg (2.42cwt)

**Overall length**  
20ft 4in (6.19m)

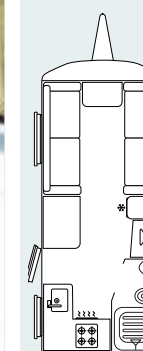
**Overall width**  
7ft 6in (2.28m)

**Overall height**  
8ft 7in (2.61m)

**Max internal height**  
6ft 5in (1.96m)



**Caravan Club Insurance**  
Please see quote provided in the 'Did you know?' roundel on this page\*



Figures from manufacturer's literature.

\*Quote applicable for cover from 1 March 2018 onwards. Based on standard new-for-old cover, sum insured of £23,500 (caravan and equipment), £500 contents cover and £100 voluntary excess. Included 10% discount for a Tilt sensor alarm, 10% Tracking device discount, 15% discount for Al-Ko Secure wheel locks and 15% discount for Al-Ko ATC trailer control system. Also including 4+ years no claim discount (not protected). Legal protection is an optional extra charged at £8.75 for the year. Subject to underwriting – a copy of the policy wording, including benefits and exclusions, is available on request. Caravan and Motorhome Club is a trading name of The Caravan Club Limited. The Caravan Club Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



**P**roper good old two-berth caravans are often overlooked by couples who crave the convenience and luxury of a permanent en-suite bedroom. But our experience with this issue's test subject – Bristol-based Bailey's two-berth, end-kitchen Seville from the top-of-the-range Unicorn line-up – suggests that they deserve closer scrutiny. So, without further ado, let's take an in-depth look.

Bailey's Alu-Tech construction system – which consists of five exterior panels all bonded together and wrapped around a polyurethane frame, with no exterior fasteners – promises leak-free ownership. This is backed up by a six-year anti-water-ingress warranty that can be extended to 10 years.

Our test example looked and felt impressive, with smooth, soft-close hatches and neat joinery throughout, including all the hidden-out-of-sight stuff inside cupboards and lockers. The only sticking point (literally) was courtesy

of the push-button locks on a couple of the locker doors; otherwise, this was a beautifully presented caravan.

### TOWING

The Seville presents a powerful case for itself here. It's a mere 20ft long, so is nice and manoeuvrable, and it weighs a commendably modest 1,326kg even when fully laden, giving it an excellent choice of potential towcars. The comparison with its fixed-bed Unicorn Valencia stablemate is stark – the fixed-bedder is nearly 4ft longer and, even when empty, is still heavier than the fully-laden Seville. Al-Ko's excellent ATC electronic traction control system is always a reassuring sight, and there's the ubiquitous hitch stabiliser, too.

The cooker and the twin-bottle gas locker right at the back add weight where you'd maybe rather not have it, but so long as that's taken into consideration when loading up it won't be an issue.

### DAYTIME

There's no argument – come lights-out, a fixed double bed is great to fall into. But during the day, it's still there, not getting used and using up a lot of space. To compensate for that, you usually either have to put up with the compromise of a pinched lounge or need a much longer bodyshell, with the added weight and need for a heavier towcar that brings with it.

On board the Seville, though, you get the luxury of an expansive, comfortable lounge that allows two to wallow all day long on 6ft 3in-long sofas; and because of that, the interior feels way more spacious than its on-paper 15ft 4in. It's a delightfully airy-feeling caravan too, thanks to no fewer than three sunroofs and, especially, that huge panoramic front window. When you sit in the lounge and gaze towards the back of the



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caravan, it almost defies belief that the floorplan is so compact – Bailey's designers have done a tremendous job of getting an awful lot out of such a little space. The squared-off front chest looks handsome, although I'm puzzled why the pull-out extension doesn't sit flush with the rest of the table top.

Storage space is bountiful; there's little wasted space anywhere on board, which is good to see. The usual bank of overhead lockers is complemented by some truly enormous cupboards, and both seat lockers offer a lot of useable capacity. There are four mains sockets indoors and one outside (alongside a gas barbecue point), although the lounge area is bereft – that's an odd omission.

The TV station is on the big nearside dresser by the entrance door, and the excellent JVC





“The L-shaped kitchen has the definite feel of a separate entity within the caravan”

Clockwise from above: good use of space in washroom; smart exterior styling; attractive chest at front; well-equipped kitchen

sound system is state-of-the-art, offering USB input and Bluetooth as well as a CD player (very 20th century, I know!).

#### NIGHT-TIME

So, here's the only compromise in this otherwise compromise-free layout – you have to make up your bed at night and put it away again in the morning. But, really, there's little effort involved: the tight, free-running slats are delightfully easy to slide in and out, and there's not a huge amount of upholstery-rearranging involved either. All your bedding is easily retrieved from the capacious underseat lockers. The resulting bed is big, comfy and welcoming. At this time of year, when there's still a definite chill in the air, the almost totally silent night-time Alde central heating setting means this is a warm and luxurious year-round tourer.

#### KITCHEN

Tucked away in the rear corner, this L-shaped facility has the definite feel of a separate entity within the caravan – making the Seville feel even more like an upmarket holiday studio.

It's an undeniably handsome kitchen, and undeniably practical with it. The hob, which comprises an electric hotplate and three gas burners, is protected not just by a glass lid but by a hinged cover that matches the worktop. So, if you don't need to be using the hob, you have an extremely useful slab of extra work surface to add to the already pretty generous allocation.

The sink sits at right-angles to the cooker, so you get to look out of the window while doing the washing-up (every cloud, eh?). The sleek, built-in tower fridge and microwave both live slightly further forward in the caravan.

#### WASHROOM

Yet again, a triumph of design. Open the door and you're greeted by the now-very-much-expected designer wash basin and a bijou radiator – during the raw, wintry weather of the test period, it always felt lovely and warm in here. Pull open the floor-level cupboard and you'll reveal a fitted canvas laundry bag. Very neat – although it simply unhooks if you don't agree, freeing up the space for 'normal' use.

Among the plethora of storage options in here is a new recessed cubby hole behind the toilet unit that's intended for spare loo rolls, although there's nothing in the rules that says you have to use it for that...

There's enough room to get changed in here – and the separate, granite-effect, squared-off shower cubicle at the back is commendably spacious, too. The presence of not one but two plugholes in the shower suggests a designer with – like many of us – some previous experience of water that refuses to drain away no matter how level the caravan is!

#### LIGHTING

It's all LED, of course – which means you get nice, sharp illumination in all the important areas. And if you sometimes go caravanning away from mains hook-up, the built-in solar panel on the roof helps the lights stay on for longer.

The lounge is served by four swivelling reading lights, so you're covered whichever bedtime configuration you use. Built-in USB connectivity is a user-friendly touch in this gadget-intensive era. The mood lighting does its thing at floor level as well as up near the ceiling – which, together with the posh pleated window blinds in place, is very pleasing on the eye.

The kitchen is bathed in light, as is the washroom – where a tug on the pull cord also brings the dedicated shower cubicle light into play.

#### VERDICT

I'm like almost everybody else – I always appreciate a caravan with the blissful convenience of a permanently made-up bed. But revisiting a 'proper' two-berth in the shape of this outstanding offering – with its exceptional daytime living space in such a compact bodyshell – means I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't advise you to at least stop and think before you draw up your next-caravan shortlist.

#### With thanks to

Vehicle supplied for testing by: **Bailey of Bristol**, South Liberty Lane, Bristol BS3 2SS. Contact: baileyofbristol.co.uk, 0117 966 5967.