

Exclusive New Model Previews

Want a new van? Next year's hot new models are coming and we reckon they look sensational!

Exclusive: Bailey Unicorn

Practical Caravan gets a first look at Bailey's new Unicorn

- Sits above Pegasus in the model line-up
- Three floor plans, all with rear washrooms
- Alde heating
- Plush interior
- Heavy-duty Al-Ko chassis
- Prices and weights to be confirmed

IT'S FULL STEAM ahead in Bristol, as Bailey Caravans launches the third range of caravans using the revolutionary Alu-Tech construction system. Since the Pegasus and Olympus launched, more than 4000 tourers have been built using the technology but there has been criticism. Interior and exterior appearance has been flagged up for being too plain and not befitting a top-end product. Bailey's response is the Unicorn.

Unicorn is a three-model range sitting above the Pegasus and the old Senator Series 6 range. The floor plans are best sellers. The Seville is an end-washroom two-berth, and the Valencia is a fixed-bed, end-washroom four-berth similar to the Pegasus 534. The Barcelona is a twin-axle with a fixed-bed, end-washroom layout similar to the Valencia's but with a full-sized front lounge.

The Unicorn is the first Bailey range to be built on the heavy-duty version of the Al-Ko chassis. Externally, the bigger wheels are the main difference, being 15in alloys rather than the 14in fitted to other Baileys. This indicates that the new models are heavier, although this has yet to be confirmed. Bailey suggests the new models will be around 50kg heavier than equivalent Pegasus models.

One reason for the extra weight is the switch to the Alde heating system. The system uses radiators concealed behind the furniture to warm the van, rather than blown air favoured on the Pegasus and Olympus. This puts the Unicorn in line with top-range products from other manufacturers for 2011.

As usual with Bailey products, the external specification is pretty peerless. Chassis options include the Al-Ko ATC stability system, Secure wheel lock and hitch-

mounted stabiliser. The Tracker system for retrieving a stolen caravan is fitted as standard.

A consistent criticism of both Olympus and Pegasus is the look of the interior. Both struggle to come across as comfy and, while the Pegasus in particular has sold well, many customers just haven't fallen in love with the cutting-edge tourers. That's where Unicorn comes in. The range is designed to woo customers who bought into the technological sophistication of Pegasus, but felt it looked cold.

In place of the clean lines of previous models, Unicorn delivers a warm traditional interior, with a modern twist. Framed locker doors, positive locking catches and walnut-coloured cabinetwork are departures from the Bailey look.

There are other signs that customer concerns have been listened to. A large Heki rooflight

Unicorn's stylish graphics, body-coloured gas locker and high specification are set to impress



over the bed and a mini Heki over the kitchen throw lots of natural light into the van and prevent the dark wood tone from making the interior feel gloomy. Lighting has been boosted, too, to further brighten the interior.

The twin-axle Barcelona gets an enormous 190-litre fridge freezer, while all models benefit from microwave ovens fitted at eye level.

The washroom in the two-berth Seville has lost the huge double shower cubicle in favour of a more practical single unit, which boosts available storage space.

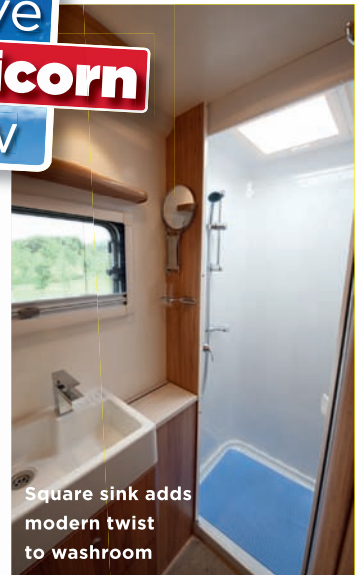
The combination of the traditionally appealing interior and cutting edge technology should ensure that Unicorn is popular when it appears on dealer sites from 1 September.

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Exclusive
Bailey Unicorn
 Preview



Square sink adds modern twist to washroom



Alde heating gives heated towel rail to well-lit washroom



Raised resin graphics



Large fridge/freezer, eye-level microwave, swan-necked taps all add class to the range



Backlit frosted-window cabinets hide drinks cabinet



Bedding is a £200 option designed to match upholstery