

Bailey Unicorn
Valencia
£17,995

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For the first time in living memory, Bailey has taken on the luxury end of the market. But has the Unicorn got what it takes? Andrew Ditton reports

Price £17,995

Berths 2+2

MIRO 1412kg

MTPLM 1562kg

Length 5.61m

Width 2.28m

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EXTERIOR

The Pegasus stormed onto the market last year in a blaze of Alu-Tech glory, and while the superb construction methods were lapped up, some felt that the interior lacked a little *je ne sais quoi*. Many loved the clean lines, but others sought something more upmarket and traditional from a 'van.

Bailey listened, and has now unveiled the range-topping Unicorn. Taking on stiff competition, Unicorn enters territory where even the Senator before it feared to tread. At a glance, the Alu-Tech bodyshell is unchanged from Pegasus, but co-ordinating touches such as the superb new gas locker door begin raising the bar. On a gas strut and with a handle (so you don't need the key to open it every time), this door now matches the caravan – it's also available for retro-fit.

All the bells and whistles you would expect from ATC to a tracking system come as standard, and additional stone chip protection is applied to the front. There's only one fly in the exquisite ointment, and that's the inboard tank; still the 23-litre slot-in version that needs lifting into the caravan when it's full.



Designer bed cover is a cost option, but a real finishing touch

INTERIOR

Former Senator owners Peter and Jo Turner from Sleaford had to pick up their jaws from the carpet when they saw the Unicorn. 'Wow! It's absolutely gorgeous!' cooed Jo as she stroked the sumptuously deep upholstery. 'This has definitely put Bailey back on our shopping list,' agreed Peter.

Our test van came with 'Mozart' upholstery featuring purple accents, but a more muted 'Elgar' upholstery is

also available at no extra cost. The silky designer bedding in our test van is a £199 cost option, but we agreed it was well worth having.

Alde central heating is a toasty new feature, upgraded with a 3kW mains element for faster warm-ups when hooked up. Just make sure you switch off the kettle before boosting the heating. Jo welcomed the microwave ovens move to a lower user-friendly height. Meanwhile, Peter admired the walnut cabinetry on the locker



We love the gas door handle – you don't need the key to open it

NEW CARAVANS

Ideal for

A couple looking for a top-end van for year-round touring



Deep upholstery in the lounge is as inviting as it could possibly be

Alternative locker design adds practicality and style



Style and substance, the washroom has it all



INTERIOR (continued)

doors. The kitchen cabinets are contemporary and the fantastic lighting. Many will welcome the cocktail cabinet's return!

In the washroom, an extendable shaving mirror and heated towel rail are delightful touches, but it was the chic, practical Belfast-style sink and deep drawers below that bowled over Jo.

What's not to like? Jo searched in vain for a mains hotplate to the four-burner hob, and there's also the issue of the fiddly inboard tank.

We like

Co-ordinated exterior finish, deluxe interior fittings, 10-year ingress warranty, Alde central heating, huge windows, great lighting

We dislike

Manual filling and lifting of inboard tank, cutlery drawer inside the cupboard, no table retainer

Our verdict

EXTERIOR 9/10

All the bells and whistles you could desire, shame about the cheap inboard tank

LOUNGING 9/10

Room to stretch out on the deep, luxurious upholstery. The bases extend for added relaxation in the lounge

DINING 9/10

Chest unit is standard, and now features pull-out table top. Table seats four easily

SLEEPING 8/10

Single beds are on the short side and front double bed compact, but most buyers won't be worried about that

KITCHEN 8/10

Terrific lighting and super new locker design. Loads of storage space too, but still that fiddly cutlery drawer and no mains hotplate

STORAGE 8/10

Heating and water system fill the space under the offside seat, but plenty of space elsewhere. Wardrobe is compact

WASHROOM 9/10

Small, but perfectly formed. We love the towel rail and extendable mirror

BUILD QUALITY 9/10

Use of quality fixtures and fittings throughout. Be aware of additional servicing costs required for the super Alu-Tech body shell

PRACTICALITY 9/10

Almost everything you could want for hassle-free touring

VALUE FOR MONEY 9/10

Not cheap by any means, but when you look at what you're getting, the Unicorn offers outstanding value for money

Thanks to Mick and Lynn, the wonderful wardens at Baltic Wharf Caravan Club Site



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Caravan 87/100
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