

BENIMAR MILEO 294

The Spanish brand has revamped this range with brighter interiors, says Peter Baber

It's just over a year since we took a look at this popular rear-island-bed four-berth from Benimar. But for 2025, the brand has made considerable changes to the Mileo's interior. So we thought it was time to revisit the 294, which we did at the South Yorkshire branch of Marquis Leisure, currently Benimar's sole UK distributor.

The new interior looks sunnier. There's a warmer wood tone, with formerly off-white cupboard doors now in deep brown. When it comes to upholstery, last year's greys and dark blues have been replaced by a warmer oatmeal on seat bases and scatter cushions in avocado green.

The exterior remains pretty much unchanged, and it's still a standard Fiat Ducato cab with a 140bhp engine and a six-speed manual gearbox. The MTPLM of 3650kg means you'll need a C1 licence to drive it.

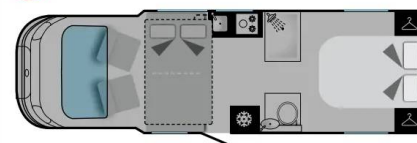
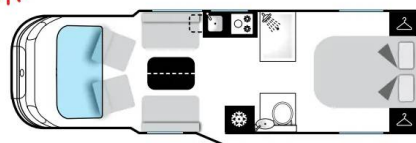
A 180bhp engine with eight-speed automatic transmission costs £8000 more, and the MTPLM is then 4400kg. That does give you a 1146kg payload, better than the 400kg in the manual.

The van has two travel seats in the rear, but the cushions to make them up play no part in making up the main lounge. They are stored in their own bag, so if you don't need them, you could easily leave them at home.

They are also seats two adults would be happy to sit in, as they have lots of legroom, a window to look out of, and a mains socket and USB and USB-C socket in front of each.

You could probably squeeze six into this lounge, so four should feel very comfortable. There's room for four to dine in comfort at the huge table.

Price £81,995
Sleeps 4 **Belts** 4
Base vehicle Fiat Ducato
Engine 2.3 litre, 140bhp turbodiesel
Length/width/height 7.39/2.30/2.89m (24'2"/7'5"/9'5")
MTPLM 3650kg
MiRO 3254kg
Payload 400kg
Water (fresh/waste) 100/105 litres
Leisure battery 100Ah
Gas 2 x 6kg, or 1 x 11kg



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There's plenty of light, too, even with a drop-down bed, thanks to a huge openable sunroof. Reading lights for the cab seats are up in the ceiling, but there's also LED striplights under the bed panel and ambient lighting behind the overhead lockers.

There is, however, only a small amount of permanent worktop in the kitchen. The pull-out extension is separated from the base unit by a splashback. You do, though, get an extractor fan above the three-burner dual-fuel hob and stainless-steel sink.

The area is well lit, with a huge window and a striplight, but there's only a combined oven and grill.

Across the aisle is a fridge with a separate freezer, a microwave, and an Omnivent above that.

The central washroom has two roof vents, including one in the shower cubicle. Slide the door shut and a mirror greets you. There's another big mirror, with LEDs, in the washroom, which has a salad-bowl-style basin.

The rear bedroom is well lit, with huge windows and a Heki. It includes

up close



Standard Fiat Ducato cab with 140bhp engine and six-speed manual gearbox



Two travel seats in the rear can accommodate adults in comfort



Fridge has a separate freezer, and microwave is located above



Rear island bed has a sizeable headboard and bedside tables



1 Four can dine in comfort at the huge table in the lounge

2 Kitchen extension flap is separated off by a clear splashback

3 Well-lit central washroom is fitted with two roof vents...

4 ... including one in the shower cubicle



a dresser and additional TV sockets. The island bed is comfortable, with good spotlights, a big headboard and large bedside tables.

The drop-down bed is fine, but not much more than that. It gets in the way of the door slightly when lowered, and the ladder butts up against the fridge.

Storage options start with the large garage at the back, which can be made higher by manually raising the bed.

There's a big shelf above the cab and two overhead lockers in the lounge. The island bed mattress folds back,

for access to the storage area below. There are two overhead lockers above the bed and a half-height wardrobe either side of it, one with a hanging rail, the other with shelves. There is a clothes rail in the shower. You also get a shelved cupboard in the dresser, and a cubbyhole in the steps.

One advantage of a combined oven and grill in the kitchen is that you get a huge pan locker. There are three drawers to the left of the oven, an overhead locker with shelves partly taken up by the extractor fan, and

another locker above the microwave. From the kitchen, you can reach the cubbyhole in the washroom floor. There's a shallow cupboard here, too.

PRACTICAL MOTORHOME SAYS...

Benimars used to seem slightly cheap and cheerful, but not any more, with the new look in this motorhome. It remains a good prospect for small families and couples who entertain occasionally. Keen cooks might find the kitchen a bit trying on a long tour, but that aside, this is a comfortable 'van.



Left Ladder to drop-down bed butts up against the fridge when in use...

Left ... but it's a very bright and airy space above



Left Garage height can be increased by raising the bed



Island bed mattress folds back for easy access to the storage below