Caravanand Motorhome Club Magazine



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- Bargain Buys?
 Second-hand towcars
 and motorhomes
- Happy Feet
 Lightweight walking shoes tried on for size
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 How to bring soft
 furnishings back to life

as nev TECHNICAI **Nick Harding** reviews three little-used pre-owned Base vehicle/engine Peugeot Boxer/ motorhomes to see what 2.2-litre 130bhp TD you can get for MTPLM 3,500kg (68.89cwt) your money User payload 652kg (12.83cwt) Dimensions(LxWxH) 23ft (7.01m) x 7ft Make and model: Marquis Majestic 175 2in (2.18m) x 9ft 3in Year of manufacture: 2015 (64) (2.82m)Price when new: £45,495 Berths/travelseats Current price: £39,995 2/2 Warranty

Set yourself a budget of £40,000 and you can pick up plenty of relatively new coachbuilt motorhomes on the second-hand market – just like this one. It's one of a number of dealer specials derived from popular Elddis





motorhomes, Majestic being the moniker used by Marquis for these models.

In this instance, the two-berth Autoquest 175 provides the base model to which a host of extra kit is added, including in the Peugeot Boxer cab where your driving experience benefits from a touchscreen DAB radio, rear-view camera system, automatic air conditioning and more.

On site, both cab seats swivel to combine with the extra-long settees to create a formidable lounge, which is ideal for entertaining with or without the free-standing table.

Moving rearwards, you'll find equally generous split kitchen facilities, a large fridge (including removable freezer) with microwave oven above on the nearside, opposite a dual-fuel hob, separate oven and grill, matching black sink, worktop plus slide-out extension and storage, including a handy set of drawers.

Perhaps the most impressive part of this two-berth motorhome though is the full-width rear washroom. Incredibly spacious, it boasts a circular shower cubicle, swivel-bowl toilet, fixed (but rather flimsy) basin and dressing space, with enough room left over for one of the largest wardrobes you'll find in any motorhome, so you can pack clothes for any occasion.

Now more than three years old (it was registered on 1 January 2015), this Majestic 175 is in excellent overall condition. It has had one previous owner, covered just over 13,000 miles and, it should be noted, is a prize-winning

vehicle – it topped the Coachbuilts Under £45.000 class in the Club's 2013 Motor Caravan Design and Drive Awards.

3 years AutoMarq**

Having said all this, there are signs that it started life as a budget model. The cab windows only get curtains (no blinds), for example, and the window-less habitation door means the entrance area is rather gloomy. In direct contrast, the opening sunroof means daylight floods into the lounge area to create a really welcoming feel.

VERDICT

Dealer specials such as this come with an impressive specification list, so they are well worth looking at – Marquis is one of more than 15 dealers to offer limited-edition Elddis models, so you should have plenty of choice if the Autoquest 175 layout is the one for you. The large front lounge and end washroom are the stars of the show in this palatial two-berth.

OTHER AUTOQUEST 175 DEALER SPECIALSFORLESSTHAN£40,000*

- 1. Prestige 175 2016, 2-berth, £38,995 (Vehicles 4 Leisure, Denbighshire vehicles4leisure.co.uk, 01745 889977)
- 2. Envy 175 2015, 2-berth, £39,995 (Dolphin Motorhomes, Dorset-dolphinmotorhomes. co.uk, 01202 479444)
- 3. Majestic 175 2015, 2-berth, £37,995 (Marguis Leisure - marguisleisure.co.uk, 08000267777)

TEST SECOND-HAND MOTORHOMES

Make and model: Auto-Sleeper Warwick XL Year of manufacture: 2017 (67) Price when new: £57.495 Current price: £53,995

uto-Sleepers has been converting panel Auto-Sieepers in social vans into motorhomes for more than 50 years, and this expertise has been put to great use in the two-berth Warwick XL, one of the company's most popular and best-selling high-tops of recent years. Based on the extra-long Peugeot Boxer window van (a Fiat Ducato-based version is available for those wanting automatic transmission), the XL is a longer and, therefore, more spacious version of the original Warwick (now called the Warwick Duo).

This example is only a year old and, as you can see in the pictures by the presence of the original plastic coverings on the seats, the living quarters have never been used. So, how do you explain the fact that it has covered more than 14,000 miles? Any guesses? It is an ex-demonstrator.

If this isn't enough to set your bargain hunter bells ringing, consider this: a brand-new Warwick XL today (including essential extras) would set you back some £57,500. So, you're already nearly £3,500 up on the deal.

On top of that, you'd be hard pushed to find a more comprehensively-equipped high-top anywhere, for it has been fitted with both the optional extra-cost Premium and Winter Packs







– giving you such luxuries as alloy wheels, cab air conditioning, cruise control, Omnistor awning, reversing camera, daytime running lights, Al-Ko Air Top suspension, fresh and waste water tank heater blankets, concertina cab blinds (instead of curtains), upgrade to Truma's Combi 6 heating and hot water system and wheel arch insulation. Phew! That's an extra £3k or so worth of kit!

That's not all, either. Like all the latest Peugeot-based van conversions from Auto-Sleepers, this Warwick XL is blessed with the more powerful 160bhp 2.2-litre turbodiesel engine as standard. Many rivals opted for the 130bhp motor.

The twin rear settees make for a superspacious lounge by day, and give you a choice of two singles or a double bed by night. The offside kitchen is a better facility than you'll find in many a coachbuilt - it comprises a Thetford Triplex cooker, extractor unit, microwave oven, sink with add-on drainer and 96-litre fridge with automatic energy selection, as well as generous worktop and storage space, kitchen roll and cutlery holders and mains and USB sockets.

Opposite, the washroom is large enough to accommodate a separate shower cubicle, a fixed basin and swivel-bowl toilet.

Don't like the exterior or interior colours of this example? Shop around. Auto-Sleepers offer a choice of metallic paints and soft furnishings with the Warwick XL, so there's bound to be a combination that will appeal.

VERDICT

You surely won't find a more perfect 'pre-owned' example than this. It's living quarters have never been used, the initial deprecation hit has already been taken by Marquis and it has been nicely run in. What more could you want?

OTHER WARWICK XLs FOR LESS THAN £50,000*

- 1. Auto-Sleeper Warwick XL 2014, 2-berth, £41,950 (Perthshire Caravans, Perthshire - perthshire-caravans.co.uk, 01821 670212)
- 2. Auto-Sleeper Warwick XL 2016, 2-berth, £49,995 (West Country Motorhomes, Wiltshire - westcountrymotorhomes.co.uk, 01793 726666)
- 3. Auto-Sleeper Warwick XL 2016, 2-berth, £44,999 (AEG Motorhomes, West Midlands -aegmotorhomes.co.uk, 01384848439)

Featured motorhomes reviewed at:

Marquis Leisure, The Causeway, Great Billing, Northampton NN3 9EX (marquisleisure.co.uk, 01604402888)

*Second-hand caravans available at time of writing *Exclusive to Marquis Leisure