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# Benimar 2019

The Spanish brand retailed by Marquis adds van conversions and a budget range



Kitchens include a microwave



Words Peter Vaughan



Light-coloured cabinets increase the impression of space



Benivan 122 has well-shaped rear double passenger seat

**B**ENIMAR is one of several Trigano brands entering the van conversion market with a similar product built in the UK by Auto-Trail. Its new Benivan comes in two flavours – the 120 (a two-berth with large rear lounge) and the 122 (smaller rear lounge, four travel seats). Both are based on the six-metre Fiat Ducato.

Following the remarkable success of Benimar's approach in the UK, offering a high standard specification and hardly any options, it is no surprise to see a similar 'all-inclusive' approach with the Benivan. The layouts may be familiar but it's unusual to find a 150bhp engine, automatic lights and wipers, black alloy wheels, a leather steering wheel, DAB radio with sat-nav and ESP with Traction+ all as standard.

In the living area, both Benivans come with a microwave, TV aerial and solar panel. Prices have not yet been announced.

## ENTRY-LEVEL PRIMERO

Although we have no images to share with you yet, Marquis has also informed us that it will be launching a new budget range of sub-6m coachbuilts, called Primero. It inherits three layouts from the Mileo range – 202 (low-profile, end kitchen, drop-down bed), 301 (overcab, rear transverse double) and 331 (overcab, French bed). All are based on a 3,500kg Fiat Ducato with a no-cost option of a 3,650kg maximum weight and the availability of a Comfort-Matic gearbox at extra cost. No other options will be offered and prices are

expected to be "very competitive in comparison with the competition."

The Primero 283 is a completely new low-profile, three-berth model with front half-dinette, central kitchen and washroom and a rear lounge of twin side-facing sofas. Of course, like all Benimars, the habitation door is on the UK side.

With the arrival of the Primero, the 301 and 331 overcab coachbuilt layouts are deleted from the more expensive Mileo range, which gains a new entrance door with two locking points, a redesigned washbasin, improved lighting and locks for garages, as well as a new upholstery (called Bergen).

The Ford-based Tessoro range gets a similar minor update to the Mileo models, with Luxor being the new soft furnishing scheme.