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DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019 £3.95 whatmotorhome.co.uk



McLouis

This Italian brand returns to the UK in 2019 through Auto-Sleepers and selected members of its dealer network







BETWEEN 2000 and 2009 the name McLouis was making regular appearances in these pages with vehicles such as the Glen, Lagan, Tandy and many more with just a three-digit model number. Low-profiles and overcab coachbuilts were the brand's métier, with good value being a typical plus point of these Italian motorhomes.

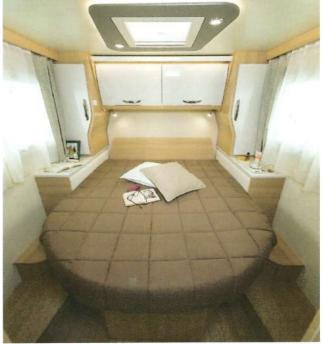
Back in the year 2000, McLouis merged with two other manufacturers in Italy, Elnagh and Mobilvetta, to form the SEA Group – at that time the third-largest maker in Europe. Then, in turn, SEA was swallowed up by the huge French Trigano Group. It's this link that sees McLouis motorhomes back in the UK, as they are imported by Auto-Sleepers (another Trigano-owned brand) and sold through a selected group of its retailers. For now, that list includes all 12 branches of Marquis (yes, another Trigano company), as well as independent dealerships, Choose Leisure (Kent), Go European Motorhomes & Caravans (Staffordshire), Nick Whale Motorhomes (Worcestershire) and Scot Motorhomes (Perthshire). More dealers will be appointed in due course.

The McLouis marque might have been absent from the UK for nearly a decade but it returns with a thoroughly modern-looking range of five low-profiles, all based – no surprise here – on the Fiat Ducato. Base vehicle spec includes the 130bhp engine and a 3,650kg chassis, although downplating to 3,500kg (free) or upgrading to 4,400kg (£2,000) is possible. ESP, alloy wheels, colour-coded front bumper, cruise control, cab air-conditioning, DAB radio with Bluetooth and driver and passenger airbags are all included as standard. The only option is a Comfort-Matic gearbox (at £2,000).









All five models come under the Fusion name and feature McLouis' WPS construction, which uses a durable wood-free manufacturing process. The iTech 4.0 wall system employs a synthetic resin in place of wood and has inner and outer skins of polyester. Styrofoam insulation is used, rather than inferior polystyrene, while lighter weight and hail-resistance are just two benefits of the WPS build. Seitz framed windows are fitted as well as wide garage doors.

The range kicks off with the Fusion 331, a 5.99m model with transverse fixed double bed

at the rear

Then there's the Fusion 360, which has a similar bedroom format but with a bigger front lounge and a larger washroom with separate shower – and an extra metre of overall length.

Also measuring 6.99m overall is the Fusion 367, the first of two island bed motorhomes – each with a generously wide bed (1.60m).

Offering a very similar layout is the Fusion 379 but its 7.41m length allows a bit more living space.

Concluding the range is the 373, which mirrors the 379 but with single beds at the rear

instead of the island double.

All models come with a large, opening Skydome overcab sunroof, 120W solar panel, sunroof over the kitchen and bedroom, a TV bracket, a flyscreen for the habitation door, memory foam seating, Truma Combi 6kW gas/electric heating, a 115-litre fresh water tank (100 litres for Fusion 360), an oven/grill, large fridges (142 or 150 litres) and even an extractor hood.

McLouis prices start at £49,995 for the 331, rising to £52,995 for the 360 or 367, with the largest 373 and 379 layouts costing £54,995.