

# MOTOR

# Diary

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## Take your home comforts with you

*Jane Devonshire takes to the road in one of the latest motorhomes on the market*

So summer has almost arrived, and that can only mean one thing as far as the motoring review goes – it's time to load up and live the life.

Fortunately for me, I have the opportunity to review something that is a little different to the norm – a motorhome – and on this occasion, I am trying out one from the 2019 Benimar range.

The Benimar brand is renowned for a fresh, contemporary style, with flexible layouts to suit both couples and families. Since their launch, Benimar Motorhomes have quickly become the UK's largest selling imported product, probably due to the fact that they are very high spec and at a good price.

So the adventure starts here. Well, actually the adventure starts at Marquis Motorhomes, Lee Mill.

I meet up with Richard Babbage, who puts me

through the drill – that is, he explains how everything works: the water, drainage, gas and electricity, and when to power from the vehicle battery or the leisure battery, or even gas. The control panel was very easy to operate.

At just 6.7m long, this is by no means the longest vehicle I have driven, but I do have to remember that I cannot cut the corners! Built on a Ford Transit base with a 170bhp diesel engine and automatic gearbox, the drive is very smooth; indeed, it was a pleasure to drive. The ergonomic cab with padded steering wheel felt just like driving a car.

Lots of things are added as standard, including automatic air conditioning, cruise control and lots of other features that make touring enjoyable, such as an upgraded stereo system and a colour reversing camera.

The Tessoro 483 offers



*Contributed*

**Benimar Tessoro 483: luxury on the open road**

four berths and four travelling seats, as well as a very spacious lounge area and two front seats that turn around, an L-shaped settee and a further settee, lots of lighting and a large window. There is also a

sunroof over the cab, all in all creating a very nice area. There is an electrically operated adjustable table that can be positioned at any height to suit you.

The main double bed

comes down easily with a good size cutaway for easy access to the door, complete with reading lights. A second double bed can be created from the lounge seating area.

This motorhome is

fitted out to the highest standard: a kitchen area with large fridge/freezer, oven/grill with gas and electric hob, a microwave oven, lots of storage space, including cupboards and drawers with soft closing hinges; concertina blinds on doors and windscreen and removable carpets, including entrance mat – easy to keep clean.

The bathroom has a fully separate shower cubicle, washbasin with cupboard below, and a swivel bowl toilet.

There is a window for ventilation and excellent lighting, all very nicely finished. There is also a very large wardrobe right at the very rear of the vehicle, below which is a garage that can be accessed from outside – a fantastic storage area.

Lots of lovely led lighting creates a great atmosphere, there are ample power points, both 12v and 230v sockets, and, of

course, a TV aerial point.

Grade three insulation means that the Benimar Motorhome range excels in any environment to deliver luxurious year-round touring comfort. The GRP-clad bodywork is virtually wood free, so there is no trouble with water ingress. It does, of course, come with an extensive warranty

Overall, I would say that this motorhome offers striking sophisticated style, class-leading, craftsman-built quality and hi-tech innovation, all at a surprisingly affordable price: on the road at £54,995.

There are several models to choose from in this range. I would suggest you go along to Marquis Motorhomes, Lee Mill, and have a look for yourself.

Live the life and take to the road – call Marquis today on 01752 892977 for your test drive.