

rule britannia

The new Cotswold is Auto-Sleepers' design of a British-style en-suite French bed low-line

THE Cotswold has enjoyed a minor cosmetic overhaul since our test, with blue/grey graphics replacing the previously gold/fawn colour scheme. Alloy wheels remain a £399 cost option, but the rest of the Cotswold's basic body architecture remains the same.

The discreet reversing camera is standard fitment, as are the awning, rear corner steadies and a gas barbecue point. Best of all, is the longitudinal overcab rooflight. Standard Cotswold motivation comes from a 130bhp engine.

Inside, you're surrounded by soothing colours, the rich, dark cabinetry looking terrific against the Phoenix olive-green soft furnishings, plain lift-out carpets and chrome-effect fittings. The cool glow emitted by the mostly LED lighting, the entirely flat floor, profusion of panoramic rooflights and general air of solidity all impress.

Both cab seats swivel, and each settee is long enough to accommodate two or three guests. Top-quality blinds/flyscreens keep the light levels just right.

Galley equipment levels are, predictably enough, sky-high in here, with the Cotswold mustering a dual-fuel Spinflo Caprice Mk III cooker, 700W microwave oven and Thetford's 150-litre SES true fridge/freezer. High and low storage space is better than average, while a simple pull-out shelf provides much-

needed additional worktop space.

One of the big benefits of buying a French bed motorhome is the big void beneath the mattress. With external access, there's ample room under there for hook-up leads, levelling blocks, outdoor chairs and the like.

Inside, the front settees are largely uncluttered thanks to the lack of space-gobbling gas locker (the Cotswold has an underslung LPG tank), while even the overcab area manages to squeeze in a couple of side locker pods, despite the fitted rooflight.

There's a huge wardrobe (with twin drawers and large eye-level locker) from which both TV and table emerge on their own plinths. In the bedroom, the mattress is supportive and comfortable, there's a padded headboard, and lighting is more than ample.

In the washroom, blue pin-lights are sunk into the mirror. Full marks are earned by the dedicated LED downlighter and the enormous separate shower behind those full-height bi-fold doors, complete with ample storage and automatic extractor fan.

Every door and hinge feels built to last. Factor in our test model's big engine and cab air-con, and you're looking at a lot of money - getting on for £60k! However, consider a standard kit-list that extends to a satellite TV system and the latest Webasto heating system, with that build-quality and ambience, and it's pretty good value.

FACT FILE

PRICE FROM £56,995

BERTHS 4

TRAVEL SEATS (INC DRIVER) 2

DIMENSIONS 7.16m L, 2.32m W, 3.01m H

MAXIMUM WEIGHT 4005kg

BASE VEHICLE

PEUGEOT BOXER LWB CHASSIS-CAB

ENGINE 2.2HDi 130bhp

COOKING/HEATING

COOKING 3-burner hob, electric hotplate, grill/oven, microwave

FRIDGE 150-litre Thetford SES

HEATING Webasto diesel blown-air

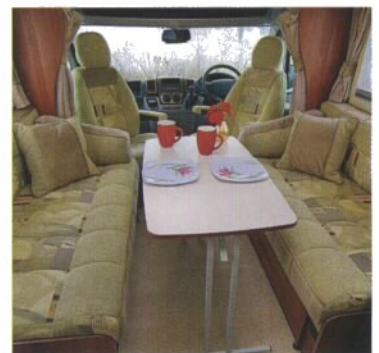
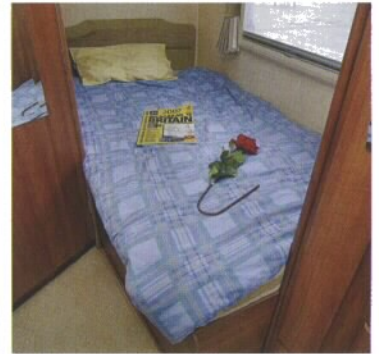
BOILER Webasto diesel

RIVALS

AUTO-TRAIL CHEROKEE

SWIFT BOLERO 680 FB

RAPIDO 7086



Auto-Sleepers' Cotswold boasts a high spec level

WHICH motorhome says

The Cotswold has it where it matters. Including build-quality, design and interior ambience.