



# Who needs a stately home?

Can't afford to fix the roof? Heating bills in the east wing bleeding you dry? Then why not downsize to a luxury caravan - you'd be doing your bit for the environment and can still enjoy a range of comforts that'll keep you in the manner to which one is accustomed...



HITCHLOCK THE BUTLER

HIS NIBS HAMPTON

DUCHESS DOWELL

Price .....	£29,995
Berths .....	4
MiRO .....	1643kg
MTPLM .....	1795kg
Payload .....	152kg
Awning .....	979cm
Overall length.....	7.25m
Width.....	2.24m
Overall height.....	2.61m

**Standard equipment**

- Al-Ko ATC Trailer Control
- Al-Ko AMS Mammot mover
- Alarm ■ Tracker ■ Deep pile carpets ■ Hairdryer ■ TV/DVD

THIS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN thingy has left one rather short of cash so the 'pile' and the staff just had to go, not to mention the holiday villa in Cap Ferrat, writes Duchess Dowell.

Daughter Lucy persuaded me that we could still live in style and regularly change our 'grounds' if we purchased a touring caravan. His Nibs sought professional advice about suitable vehicles and came up with this rather splendid Kensington - what else? - by AS Caravans. Of course, His Nibs and I needed someone to 'do' for us so we kept young Hitchlock on.

I must say that downsizing and touring around the dear old UK has all been rather jolly. Hitchlock isn't that keen on sleeping in a tent outside, but one must make economies somewhere.

Special feature » AS Kensington

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**«WHAT WOULD MR D'ARCY THINK OF THE LOVELY LOUNGE?»**

The Kensington gets plenty of daylight and fresh air by way of the large rooflight and windows. In the evening, His Nibs lingers over the newspaper under his choice of four spots in the lounge and two in the side dinette, while I glance at my snap of young D'Arcy. I keep it on the centre chest but move it when we have snacks with our cocktails and extend the tabletop. It is the flip-over kind - a tad inconvenient.



**» HITCHLOCK MAKES A PERFECT FOOTREST**

When I wish to watch *Downton Abbey*, Hitchlock flicks a switch in the cupboard above the dresser to raise the TV, which is housed in a dedicated compartment beside the dresser (far left). Then he kindly permits His Nibs to put his feet up. It's so nice to put the set away when it is not in use and it allows Hitchlock access to the cocktail cabinet (left) to pour me a snifter. The cocktail cabinet comes with rather nice crystal - such a thoughtful touch. I believe all the controls are in this area, too.



PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER SPINNEY/LAT



**« DICKIE BOW?  
NO PROBLEMO**

Thank goodness there's a towel rail and soap dish and the mirror has lighting around it - so useful when one is doing one's face. And not even our former villa (charming though it was) had a hairdryer fitted right alongside.



**« TAKE TWO BUTLERS  
INTO THE SHOWER?**

The wardrobe is in the washroom: it's a lovely size with cubbies for shoes. And - would you believe? - it has side access. How convenient for our hardworking Hitchlock. He can fetch my coat without disturbing His Nibs' ablutions.



**^ ET VOILÀ - THE BOUDOIR**

I'm rather fond of the upholstery in the lounge. The back cushions wrap around, giving plenty of support, but I will have to watch out for wine drips on the suede trim. Hitchlock tells me that it is easy to set up the bed. The mattress is supported by slats, which are pulled from the seats and are supported by legs. I'm so glad. One hears about slats slipping out when double beds are made up. Just imagine the tutting that would have ensued!



**^ ONLY THE BEST  
FOR OUR SERVANT**

Hitchlock likes the smart chrome tap and tells me there's plenty of space on the worktop to butter my toast.

For all the specifications and further details, visit our website [www.practicalcaravan.com](http://www.practicalcaravan.com)

