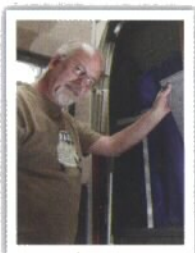


Coachbuilts up to £43,000



Winner

Marquis Majestic 145



MMM road test correspondent **Jonathan Lloyd** explains why the Marquis Majestic 145 by Elddis is a worthy class winner...

Elddis has several previous Design & Drive wins for its Autoquest range under its belt. However, these were all for well-established

and popular layouts. In contrast the 145 is a newbie, though it briefly appeared as a 'toe-in-the-water' exercise on the last of the previous generation Boxer. Logic suggests that it must have been well received, otherwise they wouldn't have re-launched it!

Whilst the market appears to be flooded with ever longer two-berth luxury leviathans, thankfully the Autoquest range continues to be tightly focussed on offering value-for-money family motorcaravanning within a manageable footprint and at under 3500kg, so they can be driven by everyone...important for those at either end of the age spectrum. The 145 is a perfect example of the genre. Boasting four comfortable travel seats with anti-submarine squabs and four full-sized

adult sleeping berths, it's just the ticket for a growing family...or even for a couple who may occasionally motorcaravan mob-handed.

Usefully, the 145's unique selling point is that, although it is a relatively compact 6.24m (20ft 6in), there are two easily-accessible, comfortable seats plus the use of an occasional table even with both double beds made-up. Perfect if bed times are less than synchronised...that'll be most of us who motorcaravan as a family then!

Autoquest may look a traditional British product, which is part of its appeal but, perhaps surprisingly, there has been plenty of product development taking place. Firstly, Elddis put extra rigidity into the residential section by only building on the closed section version of the chassis-cab.

Secondly, Autoquests' interior ambience has quietly evolved and now boasts new cabinetwork featuring elegantly uncluttered, flat-fronted doors with large arthritis-friendly handles. Finally, Autoquest has European Whole Vehicle Type Approval and it is offered with an approved towbar with bike rack... as a practical alternative to hanging the bikes on a rack attached to the back wall.

Marquis is our largest multi-outlet dealer and, in part, this has been achieved by the success of its 'dealer specials'. This generation of Majestics is based on the well-received Autoquest range, which Marquis has given



“Some of the upgrades are not actually available on the Eddis options list so Marquis has added exclusivity to VFM”

a firm shove upmarket by upgrading the specification to feature lots of toys at an inclusive price – offering better value for money than if they had been individually specified from the options list. And there’s more... some of the upgrades are not actually available on the Eddis options list, so Marquis has added ‘exclusivity’ to ‘VFM’.

Majestic offers the following over and above standard Autoquest spec: silver cab and exclusive graphics, wheel trims, cruise control, cab air-conditioning, passenger air-bag, dash enhancement, exclusive soft furnishing fabrics, Heki 2 rooflight, blown-air heat distribution and a bi-fold flyscreen door. All for a remarkable £37,225 OTR.

Also bear in mind that Eddis products are popular on the used market and so have proven solid residuals. Thus there should be no nasty heavy depreciation shocks in store - unlike with some ‘here today, gone tomorrow’ imports. Don’t take my word on Majesty’s magnificence... go take a look for yourself.



FACTFILE

Price: £37,225
Base vehicle: Peugeot Boxer
 2.2-litre 100bhp MWB
Berths: 4
Length: 6.24m
Width: 2.20m
Height: 2.99m
MTPLM: 3300kg
Payload: 459kg

Contact

Marquis Motorhomes
 Dealerships in Devon, Dorset, Hants,
 Sussex, Berks, Glocs, Northants,
 Suffolk & Lancs
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