



Long-term test

**Probably the best caravan I have
had the pleasure of using in over
45 years of caravanning**

Finalising our test on the Coachman Pastiche 520/4

By Bob Mather

WHAT has made the Pastiche so special? I think the outside design features are superb, and I have never towed anything better for sheer stability - hats off to the designers.

When you first enter the Pastiche there is a complete sense of opulence. The woodwork is superb, and with a finish that is respected by the whole caravan industry.

The all-new cross window which is inserted over the front window system gives so much extra light in the 'van during the daytime, and the new background lighting system gives the 'van that warm glow during night-time. In fact, all the lighting is tactfully placed to give you maximum - or minimum - light throughout the whole 'van.

With eight electrical sockets, you are never far away from a plug when you're using all types of electrical equipment; there's even an outside socket if required, which makes nine points in all.

The introduction of the gas/electric Truma heating system is a big plus, and with no fire to take up room Coachman have used the extra space wisely. The kitchen area is spacious, with plenty of worktop and cupboard space, and the introduction of an electric plate on the hob is an added bonus. If I had my choice, I would prefer a Dometic fridge: the fitted Thetford fridge is adequate, but I feel the Dometic is superior. This is just a personal choice.

When it comes to the toilet area, I think this is where Coachman excel. The washroom in the 520/4 is an excellent showering and washing area, and an ideal dressing area. It combines all this with ample wardrobe space, and also manages to offer two drawers and plenty of cupboard space.

Soft furnishings in the 'van are stylish, and, most of all, comfortable. The pull-out bed system is very simple to operate and there's easy access to the bedding lockers.

Add to all this an outside wet locker and an adequately-sized front end locker plus a gas barbecue point and a Status aerial, and you have everything you require to have that 'home from home' experience.

We have travelled all over Scotland, England and Wales with our test 'van, covering a good few thousand miles and, believe it or not, nothing has fallen off.

We will be sorry to hand back this excellent 'van, and I am sure that whoever buys this one will enjoy it as much as we have.

P.S. Coachman have carried on with this version for their 2013 season - see our round-up on pages 43 - 45

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