



LEX IS MORE

Lunar unveiled two new Lexons and a pair of Quasars at its press launch. John Thynne reports



Top and above:
Lexon 640

Below: newcomer
Quasar 524



Lunar presented four new and four revised models at its summer press launch. The Preston-based firm, which won an award in May for implementing efficient, 'lean' manufacturing processes, introduced 21 models overall for 2013, all of which boast external and internal improvements.

Chairman Brian Mellor announced that the launch of the new Venus range had been successful and helped contribute to an improved market share during 2012 (14.2%). This four-model entry-level range, starting with the 320/2 at £10,795 (excluding delivery), remains unchanged.

The big news is the arrival of two new layouts in both the Quasar and Lexon ranges. First up is four-berth Quasar 524 (£15,995 exc delivery), which features nearside kitchen to the left of the entrance door with fixed bunks opposite and a full-width rear washroom. Quasar 554

(£16,495) is also a four-berth, but this slightly longer model has fixed single beds to the right of the entrance door. Here, the kitchen is amidships on the offside, while the washroom again traverses the rear of the caravan.

Refinements to existing models comprise the relocation of a washroom cupboard unit in the two-berth 462 and the installation of a third bunk in the Quasar 546 (£16,695). All 2013 Quasars and the two-berth Ariva (£13,995) benefit from a new Truma Combi gas/electric water and central heating system with separate digital control for the latter.

The mid-range Lexon line-up features two new layouts – four-berth 640 and five-sleeper 650 (£21,395 each) – which are both on twin axles. The former has twin beds to the right of the entrance door plus full-width rear washroom, while the 650 features fixed bunks and a central dinette, the pay-off for which is a smaller

rear bathroom. All 2013 Lexons plus the two-berth Stellar (£16,195) feature a new Alde Hydronic wet central heating system as well as the Ai-Ko ATC Trailer Control System as standard.

The top-end Clubman/Delta range (£19,795-£24,395) sees new features including Dometic ceramic-lined toilets with LED indicators for toilet and flush tank, auto-changeover dual gas regulators, revamped furniture schemes and slide-out chrome baskets in the kitchen base units. Meanwhile, cabinetry in the two-berth Clubman CK and four-berth ES has been reshuffled to optimise space.

All-in-all it's an impressive offering from Lunar, which continues to focus its attention on providing lightweight, affordable tourers. Full-height rear panels, revamped graphics and 25% deeper front windows contribute to a stylish look across the line-up which can be viewed at the forthcoming NEC show.

Adria additions

Nick Harding brings you details of the 2013 caravan and motorhome models from Slovenia's star player

Would you be able to name Europe's fourth largest caravan and motorhome producer? Need a clue? Well, it operates from a state-of-the-art manufacturing base in Slovenia. Still not got it? You may be surprised to learn that the answer is Adria, a name most, if not all, of you will be familiar with, and a company that continues to keep a high profile here in the UK.

CARAVANS

Adria tourers get new names based on rivers for 2013. Hence, new to the Altea tourer line-up is the Trent, a four-berth with island bed. New features across the whole Altea range include Al-Ko AKS stabiliser, new fridge



(in black), Truma heater upgrade, main light switch and drawers with soft-close mechanism. Specific changes here also include revised rear bed for

the Severn (formerly 542DK) and front window for the Tay (432PX).

New model in the more upmarket Adora line-up is the 8ft-wide Thames (643UT), featuring an end washroom with fixed-bed layout. The flagship Astella line-up remains at two models – twin single-bed Amazon (613HT) and end-washroom/fixed-bed Rio Grande (613KB).

Above: stylish Astella Rio Grande

Far left: the Tamar, previously called Altea 542DT

Left: all-new Trent



MOTORHOMES

There are several newcomers here, most notably the compact Fiat Ducato-based Matrix Axess 590 SG coachbuilt – just under 6m in length and with a drop-down bed over the lounge that still leaves access to the end kitchen and washroom

Other new models are: low-profile, island-bed 690 SC which joins the Sport range; fixed single-beds Twin SLX based on Fiat's long-wheelbase Ducato; and island-bed 701 SC which extends the Super Sonic A-Class models to two.

The Sonic (four offerings), Matrix (four), Matrix Supreme (now one) and Polaris (one) all get the usual exterior and interior enhancements for the new season.

Specific features to make note of include Truma's latest look for its heaters (Alde heating and hot-water systems are in the Matrix Supreme, Polaris and all Sonics).

Key to the success of all Adria products is its extremely competitive pricing – although exact details here are still to be revealed – allied to an ever-growing



reputation for the quality of its construction. Finally, the company has a new website address – find out more at adria.co.uk.

Low-profile Matrix Axess 690 SC



A family affair

Hull-based Coachman is placing its emphasis on family-friendly models for the year ahead. John Parsons has the story

Coachman has introduced four new layouts for 2013, all of which are aimed at the family and grandparent markets. The new Amara 580/5 (£18,495; 1,575kg MTPLM) and Pastiche 525/4 (£21,595; 1,660kg) are specifically designed with grandchildren in mind thanks to full-size, fixed rear bunks.

Amara is the focus for most of the new-season changes from this Hull-based manufacturer, the highlights of which are a pair of new models – the already-mentioned 580/5 and the 565/4 (also £18,495) which features the increasingly-popular fixed twin bed and end washroom layout. However, the large panoramic front window launched successfully last year on other Coachman tourers is not yet a feature on Amara – although it should be for 2014.

Amara improvements include a one-piece aluminium exterior, Truma's Combi unit for heating and hot water, Thetford's 113-litre 'energy search' fridge and Caprice dual fuel hob. All end-washroom models get a Belfast-style handbasin and new taps. Interior furnishings – grey with a dash of yellow – and the revised exterior's

bold new graphics combine to give 2013 Amaras a fresh and stylish look.

The previously-mentioned 525/4 is the undoubted star of the Pastiche show for the new season. A well thought out and spacious layout, it features an L-shaped kitchen, masses of workspace and those fixed rear bunks. A concertina blind provides a separate bedroom area for the kids at night while still allowing the adults access to the bathroom.

Pastiche shares a number of detail improvements with VIP and Laser, including Thetford's automatic fridge, a magnetic exterior door retaining system, mini Heki in the washrooms, Status 550 TV aerial with VP4 amplifier (which now

includes a useful signal search facility) and new soft furnishings which, in my opinion, are beautifully understated.

VIP and Laser models also benefit from the inclusion of a scissor jack as standard, while twin-axle 620/4 (£25,595; 1,865kg) strengthens the Laser team for 2013. This new addition features a huge wardrobe in the full-width rear bathroom.

All models retain the classy feel, attention to detail and quality build that Coachman is famed for. Generally, prices are up 3% for Amara and 2% for other ranges, while weights of existing layouts are "within 10kg or so" of last year.

Above: revised Amara has bold new graphics

Below left: Amara's interior look for the new season

Below: understated elegance inside Laser





TEAM PLAYERS

Steve Rowe brings you details of Italian manufacturer Roller Team's new coachbuilt signings for the 2013 season

Part of the giant Trigano group which looks after several European motorhome brands, Roller Team coachbuilts are made in Italy and imported into the UK by Grimsby-based Auto-Trail. Roller Team has a dedicated team managing the UK market, and the company aims to provide a stronger UK focus and back-up than you might find for some other imported motorhome brands.

Perhaps the biggest change for 2013 has been the dropping of Roller Team's sister brand, Ci (Caravans International) from the UK market. Latterly, Ci coachbuilts were identical to Roller Team layouts, so it seems a logical decision to concentrate on the single brand in the UK. Existing Ci dealers will now sell Roller Team models.

The 2013 line-up from Roller Team comprises five Auto-Roller and three T-Line coachbuilts. The Auto-Rollers are a mixture of low-profile and overcab models, while the T-Lines are all low-profiles. To encourage buyers before, and during, the October NEC show, Roller-Team pricing is to be held at 2012 levels until 22 October (it's these prices which appear in brackets).

The two entry-level coachbuilts in the Auto-Roller range are 125bhp Ford Transit 2.2 TDCi-based low-profiles 200 (£36,790) and 695 (£37,790), both of which offer two-berth accommodation.

The 200 features a permanent French double bed at the rear, with washroom alongside, while the 695 has a fixed rear island bed, plus central kitchen and washroom. As with other Auto-Rollers, there's an optional Family Pack which adds travel seats and extra berths, to turn both of these into four-berths.

Remaining Auto-Rollers are 707 (£42,490), 746 (also £42,490) and 694 (£39,990), all based on the 2.3-litre 130bhp Fiat Ducato as standard. Six-berth 746 and two-berth 694 are brand new models, the former featuring a large rear U-shaped lounge and the latter boasting a permanent rear French double bed. The 707 is a seven-berth model, with a pair of bunks at the rear, an overcab double bed, plus a further single and double bed derived from the front dinette seating.

Above left: T-Line 670 coachbuilt

Above right: Auto-Roller 746

Below left: Tribute van conversion

Below right: T-Line 680 washroom

There's a growing trend, particularly on the Continent, for low-profile coachbuilts to feature drop-down double beds over the cab, rather like those you find on large A-Class motorhomes from the likes of Hymer. So as not to be left out, the three Fiat Ducato-based low-profile models in the T-line range can all be specified with such a bed (manually-operated), which comes as part of the £1,500 optional Family Pack. A pair of forward-facing belted seats are also part of this package.

The three-models in the 2013 T-Line range are: 670 (£42,890), which comes with a permanent rear French bed; 680 Family (£44,390), with permanent rear bunks; and 700 (£43,990) which has a transverse rear double.



TAKING THE

LONG VIEW

The 2013 motorhome collection from Auto-Sleepers sees a number of longer models introduced. Gary Martin sizes them up

New Mercedes-based
Burford/Wiltshire



Symbol's new 'floating' wardrobe enhances sleeping comfort

Not ignoring a number of new, longer models and range alterations and improvements, the headline story from Auto-Sleepers in terms of its motorhomes for 2013 is that it is slimming down its offering – from 30 models in 2012 to 16 for the new season. Among the casualties are long-time Volkswagen van conversion duo Trident and Trooper (although they will still be available to individual order).

On to those new models. Based on the long-wheelbase Peugeot Boxer chassis cab, FB is the first Broadway coachbuilt to come with a permanent bed. Completing the layout is a rear washroom (alongside the bed), split-kitchen facilities amidships (large fridge-freezer and microwave opposite cooker and sink) and conventional inward-facing settees aft of the cab. Both current rear-lounge Broadways (the medium-wheelbase EL and EL Duo) will be replaced by a longer model (on the LWB Peugeot) for the forthcoming season.

Staying with Boxer coachbuilds, Nuevo EK (end kitchen) and ES (extra seat) are

also longer for 2013 – they grow by 10cm to 5.73m; the additional space used to extend the lounge areas. Nuevo enhancements for 2013 include a skirt locker, silver sidewalls, external mains socket, shower and gas barbecue point, slide-out kitchen work surface, Skyview window and a safe.

Perhaps the biggest news to come out of Willersey is a pair of new low-profile coachbuilds based on the automatic Mercedes Sprinter – Burford and Burford Duo (also to be available as Wiltshire and Wiltshire Duo in special Marquis dealer trim). These luxuriously-equipped newcomers offer generous touring accommodation, with a full-width rear washroom, fixed French bed (Burford/Wiltshire) or twin singles (Burford Duo/Wiltshire Duo), split kitchen amidships and lounge/bed up front. Auto-Sleeper Burford will have silver sides, Marquis Wiltshire white. Common to all Auto-Sleeper Mercs, Burford/Wiltshire comes as standard with Adaptive ESP (Electronic Stability Programme, including Trailer Stability Assist) and Acceleration Skid Control (ASR) for improved traction.



Top: latest Nuevo EK

Right: Burford (Wiltshire) kitchen is a stylish and practical affair



Last, but by no means least, MWB Symbol will employ Peugeot's standard high-top roof for 2013, giving it a slightly lower and more compact exterior appearance. New furniture gives Symbol a fresh, contemporary interior feel, while the most notable alteration sees the inclusion of a 'floating' wardrobe which allows the nearside single bed to extend to 6ft 5in.

You can see all these models, and more, on the Auto-Sleepers stand at the NEC in mid-October. Please note that 2013 prices weren't available as we went to press.

Latest Bristol fashions

The mythical horned horse draws Clive White to view the West Country caravan maker's wares

Bailey's acclaimed Alu-Tech construction continues to be developed and the new Unicorn bodysells find themselves clad in a GRP impact-resistant outer skin, together with reprofiled single-piece front and rear bumpers for the new season.

Visually, the new Unicorns are striking with a high front centre window which extends into the roof. It provides excellent visibility from the lounge and gives the interiors a light, airy feel. The front windows, lockerless front panel and stylish body graphics lend the Unicorns a unique and modern appearance.

Safety and security are taken care of with the fitment of high-performance Michelin tyres, Al-Ko ATC Trailer Control, Tracker recovery system (free subscription for the first year) and high security door lock. Bailey has also made efforts to reduce each model's weight (by up to 100kg), to widen its potential towcar candidates, and to price the range attractively.



Twin-axle Unicorn Barcelona



At launch, five models make up the range, all with end washrooms: Seville – 2-b; Madrid – 4b; Valencia – 4b, fixed double bed; Cadiz – 4b, twin singles; Barcelona – 4b, fixed double, twin-axle.

Unicorns are extremely well equipped with newly-introduced items too numerous to list here. Among the new interior highlights are the stainless circular sink and fittings, Thetford C-260 swivel cassette toilet, domestic style shower, Thetford Caprice oven/grill/dual-fuel hob, front bed boxes with double-bed make-up slide-out, aircraft-style overhead lockers, ergonomic dual-level kitchen units and branded entertainment system with 18.5in TV and DVD player.

Contact your Bailey dealer for full details or see baileyunicorn-s2.co.uk.

Clockwise from above: compact Seville; kitchen in Seville is well designed and presented; Seville's spacious lounge; looking back at Valencia's fixed bed...; ...and looking forward at Valencia's lounge

