



We had our pick of the pitches in the Victorian walled garden of the Speyside Gardens site, Craigellachie  
Above Parked at Glenfarclas distillery

## Taking the high road

It's interesting that a trip to Speyside in Scotland from our Camberley Secure Storage facility is as far as Basel in Switzerland. It's 575 miles and, according to Google Maps, would take around 10 hours without stops. Clearly, I would need to make several, and one of them overnight.

I was delighted to be able to pick up the latest edition to our test fleet from Marquis Motorhomes' Northamptonshire branch and, after a full handover, I was ready to roll.

The Benimar Tessoro 494 has a family-friendly layout, with an island bed at the rear, a comfortable front lounge and a great washroom that's in two parts across the centre of the 'van. There's a double bed up front, too, which drops down over that lounge. It was just going to be me staying in it for this trip, so I was looking forward to being able to stretch out in real comfort.

**+** **LIKES**  
The comfortable drive, spacious bedroom and efficient heating system

**-** **DISLIKES**  
The dinette may feel a little cramped for four people. The toilet is set quite high, over the wheelarch

The cab has a touch-screen DAB radio/CD player with USB port and Bluetooth handsfree system, integrated rear-view camera and sat nav. The base vehicle is a Ford Transit with 170bhp Euro 6 engine, AdBlue technology and automatic gearbox. The drive went so smoothly that I almost forgot I was in charge of a 7.4m vehicle; the engine felt assured and plenty powerful enough.

During the handover I'd had the AdBlue system explained to me, so I felt prepared when a warning light came on and a message



### Benimar Tessoro 494

Price	From £55,995 OTR
Berths	4
Belts	4
Base vehicle	Ford Transit, 2.0 Euro 6 170bhp engine with auto 'box
Length	7.38m (24'3")
Overall width	2.3m (7'7")
MTPLM	3500kg
Payload	320kg
Mileage	1170
Economy	25.5mpg
Faults	None
Expenses	£9.75 (for AdBlue)
Previous reports	N/A

told me that the fluid was getting low. This was on the journey home, by which time I had covered more than 800 miles. I knew it shouldn't be ignored, so I stopped at Tebay services (always a pleasure) and the canisters - at £14 - were all that was available. However, Truckstop 38, a few minutes on, had AdBlue on pump. The till operator showed me where the pump

was and how to use it. It cost 75p a litre - the Tessoro took 13 litres on board - which gave a saving of £8.45.

It certainly paid me to ignore the lorries-only signs for the AdBlue pumps; local residents use them for their cars anyway.

I thoroughly enjoyed my inaugural weekend away in the Benimar, and am looking forward to those still to come.  
**Claudia Dowell**