

TOURING IDEAS • FAMILY & TWO-BERTH 'VANS • HOLIDAY LIKE A ROCK STAR

# DISCOVER **Touring**

CARAVAN, MOTORHOME & CAMPING INSPIRATION

MAY/JUNE 2018 £1.99

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when the family have flown the nest



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# Five Go Touring in Ireland

Discover Touring takes the family-sized Mileo 346, from Spanish manufacturer Benimar, on tour.

The Benimar brand, sold exclusively in the UK by the 12-strong dealership Marquis Leisure, is renowned for its fresh, contemporary style with flexible layouts to suit both families and couples. Working closely alongside Benimar, Marquis has enriched the award-winning Mileo range for 2018, with enhanced features at an all-inclusive price.

All Benimar models are both NCC (National Caravan Council) approved and achieve Grade III insulation for all year use. Additionally, every 2018 Benimar comes with one year's free insurance (subject to T&Cs and acceptance criteria) and a GPS Trackstar CAT6 tracking system.

## Exterior

The 6-berth Mileo 346 fits into the Mileo 3 Series, a coachbuilt model that comes with a large overcab bed. Drivers who obtained a Category B driving licence after January 1997 will have to bear in mind that the MTPLM (Maximum Technical Permissible Laden Mass) of the 346 is above the 3,500kg allowed.

Our testers commented that the 346 is agile and responsive for a large, family motorhome. On the open road the 'van cruised comfortably at between 65 and 70mph with the minimum of road or engine noise. On the narrow twists and turns of Ireland's rural highways, she was foot perfect with the high cab driving position offering great views beyond the roadside hedgerows – essential for navigating a large vehicle safely and to anticipate oncoming vehicles. A reversing camera and large side mirrors allowed for inch-perfect manoeuvring, especially useful when visiting attractions in town or pitching up on sites with tighter turning areas.

For off-grid living, there's a solar panel fitted to the roof plus exterior BBQ and shower points as standard.



## Living & Sleeping

Our testers felt the 346 to be an ideal layout for families with older children. The overcab bed and double bed at the rear both offer privacy while, when travelling with more than four people, the dinette area transforms into an extra double bed at night.

During the daytime, there's ample room to sit around the dinette table, particularly with the two rotating cab chairs.

## Kitchen

Said the chief cook in our family group of testers, "I'm usually a little apprehensive about cooking for five people in a motorhome but the Mileo 346 made this task easier than I had expected.

The fridge was large enough to store enough produce for the family for at least three days, which meant we didn't have to come away from attractions early simply to make regular trips to the shops. The fridge ran off the battery whilst driving and switched to the leisure battery when parked up.

Poor weather was against us in the evening and we were unable to fall back on our usual BBQ regime. This meant we made full use of the kitchen and dining facilities on board. With a full oven, microwave and sink, any meal was possible and we enjoyed homemade curries, Irish stews, pizzas and simpler pasta dishes to name but a few during our three-week adventure."

## Washroom

It's fundamental that manufacturers get the layout of a washroom in a family 'van right and Benimar has done just that with the 346. The shower cubicle is beyond the handbasin and toilet area; no stepping in wet puddles simply to clean your teeth after the first family member has taken a shower.



## Storage

By comparison to most motorhomes with a 3,500kg MTPLM (which average anywhere between 250kg to 500kg), there is a huge payload available in the Mileo 346. More clutter and weight equates to poorer fuel economy but if you're looking to fill the 'van up with bulky equipment like inflatable canoes, all-terrain pushchairs or even a travel cot, the payload will swallow them up, as will the vast 'garage' beneath the rear double bed.

## Final Say...

The Mileo 346 offers real value for money on a large family motorhome and worked well for a long trip away. There's ample space to avoid feeling claustrophobic with a family of five or six. As our testers said, "Having enjoyed a family meal we could all look forward to a family game around the table or sit comfortably watching a film together to unwind. After busy days we were all very happy to retire to comfortable double beds that were easy to make and as quick to put away in the morning."

## Technical Specifications:

<b>Base vehicle chassis:</b>	Fiat Ducato Multijet II
	2.3 Euro 6 150bhp
<b>Mass in Running Order (MIRO):</b>	.....3,270kg
<b>MTPLM:</b>	.....4,400kg
<b>Max Payload:</b>	.....1,130kg
<b>Exterior Length:</b>	.....7.12m
<b>Body width:</b>	.....2.3m
<b>Height:</b>	.....3.05m
<b>Berths:</b>	.....6
<b>Designated travel seats:</b>	.....6
<b>Cost:</b>	.....£54,995

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