



Caravan lounges don't come much larger than this!

# STERLING

## Continental 630

The new twin-axle model in the Continental range, the fixed-bed 630, has a large fridge-freezer and some amazing styling

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Occasionally, small things catch the eyes of caravan reviewers before the more significant aspects of a tourer. Even before we'd stepped onto the doormat, we noticed a feature that sets this range apart from others. The catch that holds the door back is magnetic and spring-loaded, meaning that if the wind catches the door and takes it

back, the springs in both the door and wall elements of this catch act to bounce the door off, in a soft-close manner. And when the door is open and you want to close it from within the caravan you don't have to reach or step outside to release a catch; you simply get hold of the door handle and move the door towards you.

#### TESTED BY

Val Chapman

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Richard Chapman

There are more important aspects of Continentals, though, that you can't even see. These are about construction. In February, Swift launched its Swift Elegance and Sterling Continental ranges using a new construction system called SMART HT, with a completely timberless bodyshell, including the floor. HT stands for

► **IDEAL FOR** Couples seeking high spec, an onboard water tank and a double bed

**THE  
TOTAL PRICE  
£28,670**

The retailer delivery fee of £545 is added to the price of the caravan



Stark white styling, with plenty of light, in the shower room



Recesses for glasses and bottles gleam in the illumination from spotlights

**REVIEW**



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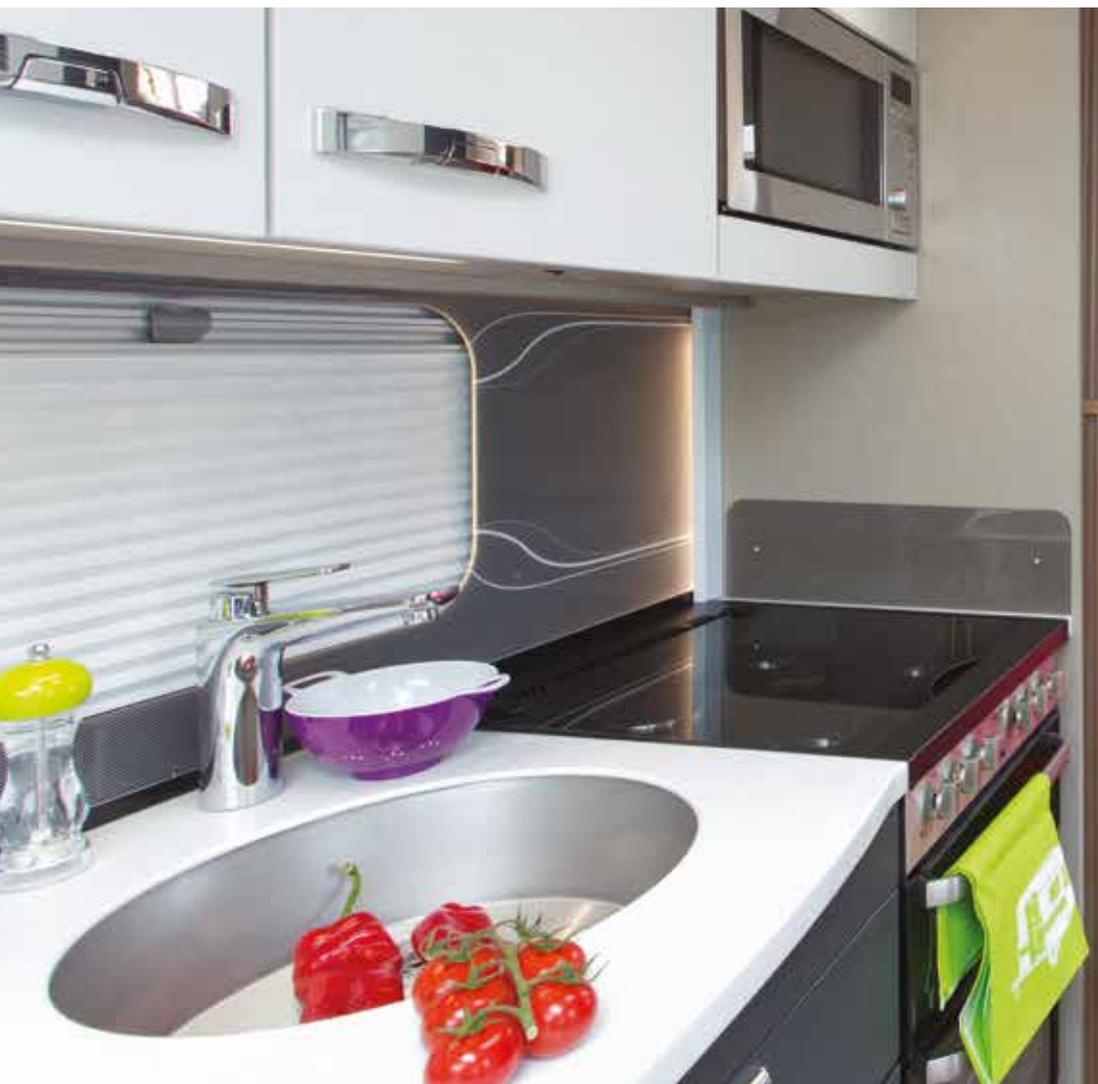
High-Tech and took the SMART construction method, introduced the previous year across the entire Swift range, to a new level by introducing timberless floors.

The floor construction is a five-layer sandwich with insulating Styrofoam at the core, clad with a rigid, strong, yet lightweight honeycomb matrix. It's covered in

GRP with a special woven glass structure that gives the whole floor a tough, impervious finish.

The 630, twin-axle, fixed-bed Continental is designed for buyers looking for plenty of space, plenty of fridge and freezer room, plenty of lounge seating length, Alde heating and all the trimmings you'd expect of a flagship-spec caravan including an

alarm system and extractor fan. It's also aimed at those wanting modern styling. Shades of dark brown and cream mingle among fabrics, curtains and cabinetry (where the dark brown panels are high-gloss, with prominent grain). And there's a fabulous long-pile lounge rug that has a golden hue when sunlight catches its paler threads.



The kitchen surface looks like white marble. The cabinet and tabletops are white, with an irregular, geometric filigree pattern in very pale grey. The drinks cabinet has a light to illuminate the chunky acrylic shelving with recesses for bottles and goblets. A bank of sockets and switches, including a USB socket, are chrome, set into a console forward of the centre-front chest of drawers. And two of the four speakers driven by the Blaupunkt system are in the shower room...

## Showering

The shower is on the nearside. The shower rose is the Ecocamel type which has an air inlet to increase water flow. The riser bar has a retainer loop to keep the hose in the corner and a wide shelf forms part of the plastic moulding.

There are two drain holes, so that if the caravan is not 100% level the water will still drain out.

A cabinet forward of the shower contains the table, and two shelves

of the perfect dimension for rolled-up towels. There are two towel hooks high up on the wall alongside the shower.

Heating in the shower room comes in the form of a large chrome radiator, very modern and domestic in styling. It's part of the Alde heating system.

Storage accommodation in the 630's shower room is amazing, with three wall cabinets plus a cupboard under the washbasin.

## Sleeping

The Duvalay mattress features memory foam technology, and designed to control temperature. It feels springy and comfortable to sit on; we haven't yet had a chance to sleep on a Duvalay mattress.

The 630's chief appeal will be to couples but if you want to turn the lounge into a bedroom, you get single beds that are 2m long (offside) and 1.77m (nearside) or a double made by rolling out a slatted central base from under the drawers. The

### WHAT WE LIKE

- ▶ The timberless floor
- ▶ The big fridge-freezer
- ▶ The smart, stark, dark and light styling
- ▶ The twin-axle stability enhancement

### WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

- ▶ Only moderate worktop without the fold-up flap

### TOW MATCH

**Caravan weight  
MTPLM: 1900kg**  
**To tow this caravan  
at 85% you need a  
car kerbweight of:  
2235kg**

*We recommend towing a  
caravan no more than 85%  
of the kerbweight*

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**CaravanTOWMATCH**  
[outandaboutlive.co.uk](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk)

bedroom has its own TV recess together with a bracket and connection points.

## Storage

The mattress is light in weight and so raising the bed base is especially easy. There's no structure to get in the way of clear access to the whole under-bed area. And you can also reach into it from an exterior hatch.

The wardrobe is in the usual position for a caravan of this layout, alongside the bed. It's aligned to create the corridor, but, instead of having doors that open into the walkway, creating an obstruction, this wardrobe's door slides open. It's simple and effective design!

The front under-settee storage areas have full-length hatches. Five top lockers, of various sizes, take care of small stuff. And a cabinet beside the door makes a useful addition to what is, overall, a well-planned storage arrangement.



White and black styling defined by lots of lighting everywhere

### Dining

For two, the front pull-out extension table is large enough for anything except major meals. You would, perhaps, rarely need to extract the table from the shower room but when you do, it's an easy process.

### Lounging

Sit back in the deep corner upholstery sections, get the two pairs of cushions in the right position to suit you, flick your feet up and take a look around... it's while reclining in the lounge that you can most easily assimilate all the style points the big 630 has to offer. Among them are vertical lights in the corners of the lounge. The style is amazing. Fibre-optic tubes are mounted between two chunky chrome end pieces. The light shimmers as you move your head to alter the angle at which you view each light. The cleverly choreographed use of very dark and very light shades from brown to almost white in the fabrics,



Even the sink design is stylish, inset into the surface with no rim



Spotlights illuminate the white wardrobe door

creates a caravan of immense style. Sterlings have come to be regarded as icons of style and the new Sterling Continental surely takes this reputation to a new level?

### Kitchen

In the 630's kitchen the stark, dark element of the styling gets even darker and starker, and even more modern. The lower kitchen furniture is almost black. And it's matt. Very IKEA and very appealing. Behind those matt doors is well-planned and plentiful storage in the form of four wire basket-style drawers in two cabinets, plus a cutlery drawer. The top cabinet is large, too, at 82cm wide and 48cm deep.

The circular sink is recessed into the worktop, with no surround. When the removable cover is in place, the whole surface is almost completely flat; the total surface length is 80cm (that's not including the hob width). And when you want more space you can hinge up a 34cm-square extension.

### TECHNICAL STUFF

**BERTHS** 4  
**LENGTH BODY** 6.38M  
**OVERALL** 7.94M  
**WIDTH** 2.26M  
**HEADROOM** 1.95M  
**WEIGHT MIRO** 1679KG  
**MTPLM** 1900KG



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### BUY THIS IF...

Amazing stark style and high spec are your goals

### ALSO CONSIDER...

Swift Elegance 630, same layout, same price, different styling

### OPTIONS TO GO FOR...

Impala or leather upholstery (prices have not yet been announced for 2015)

### OUR VERDICT

If you are looking for a fixed-bed caravan with twin-axle tow stability, gorgeous amounts of space and spec and style in spades, you have found it in the Sterling Continental 630. With no timber in the floor this range breaks into new construction territory. We think the 630, one of three new layouts for 2015, could well be one of the best-selling caravans in its spec and price bracket for the coming year.

Like all caravans in this range, the kitchen splashback has hidden illumination along each side. It's a lovely feature. The 630's splashback has a simple white wave design on a fine mesh pattern.

A slim strip of light is concealed under the top cabinets and three spotlights focus down from the ceiling; the 630's kitchen is a delight to look at and is spacious enough to avoid cooking challenges.

### Towing

Sterlings are equipped with the AL-KO ATC electronic stability control system. The 630 also has the enhanced stability of four wheels on the road, so we'd expect it to have exemplary tow characteristics. When we reviewed this caravan, though, the 630 hadn't actually been unveiled to the public so, understandably, Swift didn't want us to take it out for a test tow. When we get the chance to take one out on the road, be sure that we'll let you know our impressions.