

2016 MOTORHOME OF THE YEAR

Swift Bolero 744PR

After two years of wins for panel van conversions, this year's overall gong goes to a coachbuilt motorcaravan that's a dream machine for couples

Flexibility is becoming an increasingly rare commodity in a luxury motorhome market dominated by fixed-bed models, yet it remains a desirable one. And the latest addition to the long-running Bolero range has it in spades, with a spacious, bright end lounge that is ideal for socialising, or alternatively can be set up as a vast (6ft 7in x 6ft 1in) fixed double bed if you aren't expecting guests. You can even choose between two set-ups – parallel sofas (ideal if you plan to use them as fixed twin beds), or wraparound seating for up to six.

Either way, you also get a roomy and comfortable front lounge/dining area, too, so that this couples' van also has the option of accommodating friends or grandchildren on a second large double

made up from the seating in this area. Plus, of course, there are four belted travel seats to go with those four berths.

Only in value for money did the 744PR drop points among our judges – after all, this range-topping layout is a £65k motorhome – but everywhere else it scored 8s, 9s and 10s across the board, clinching top honours in the Best Coachbuilt Motorhome category with ease. And within that lofty price-tag you do get an awful lot of kit: just take a look at the spec panel – there really is nothing missing, and the best of everything from the wind-out awning to the external gas and electric points, the 100W solar panel to the Alde wet central heating controlled by Swift's pioneering Command system.

The latter piece of standard kit, mated to Swift's SMART Plus construction system, ensures that this is a 'van for year-round touring, complemented by the fully fitted washroom, the high-spec side kitchen and the plentiful storage options to make the most of a generous payload. It's even easy to drive, thanks to the relatively slender body and punchy 150bhp turbodiesel version of the Fiat Ducato engine.

Classy to look at and luxurious to be in, augmented by details such as the backlit splashback, anti-rattle oven and attractive ambient LED lighting, the Bolero was the only 'van to feature in the top three of every judge's shortlist. In our review earlier in the year, Andy Jenkinson concluded: 'This is a winner.'



'Classy to look at and luxurious to be in, augmented by details such as the backlit splashback, anti-rattle oven and attractive ambient LED lighting, the Bolero was the only 'van to feature in the top three of every judge's shortlist'

- 1 Swift Group 'vans always look sharp, and from front to back the Bolero 744PR in Black Edition trim really pushes the 'style' buttons
- 2 Clever front lounge configuration offers three distinct settees, or insert a fill-in section for a full L-shape sofa on the offside
- 3 The sociable rear lounge is bright and airy and just perfect for entertaining
- 4 Spacious washroom features separate shower area. Sink and vanity unit look sharp
- 5 Midships galley has plenty of space for cooks to work in, and the equipment to match

- Price £65,310 OTR
- Sleeps 4 Belts 4
- Base vehicle Fiat Ducato Engine 2.3-litre turbodiesel, 150bhp L/W/H 8.07/2.38/2.79m (26'5"/7'8"/9'2")
- MTPLM 4250kg
- Payload 875kg
- Water (fresh/waste) 100 litres Leisure battery 100Ah Gas 2 x 13kg
- CONTACT www.swiftgroup.co.uk

