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Lunar Cassini EL

Lunar's new entry-level coachbuilt motorhomes went on display for the first time in Birmingham recently. **CANDY EVANS** was among the first to get a closer look

LUNAR spent a few years out of the coachbuilt motorhome market but in October 2016 it brought back the Roadstar range, on the Renault Master base.

Just a year later the Preston-based company launched a matching set of three Cassini models – reflecting the layouts of its Roadstar siblings but with lower specifications and correspondingly reduced prices.

Our pick of the bunch is the Cassini EL. It features an end lounge and is the smallest in the range. The sticker price is a shade under £40,000, though you're likely to pay a bit more as this doesn't include the £995 dealer delivery charge.

In a motorhome of this size (6.4m long) the U-shaped rear seating gives a practical layout. The cushions are a basic cuboid shape without knee rolls, so the conversion to two single beds (or a large double) at night is straightforward. The soft furnishings are quite plain with a single fabric used throughout. This is one of the places where the contrast with the Roadstar is obvious, with the more expensive motorhome having a splash of colour on the sofa cushions. There are a couple of reading lights in the back but otherwise lighting is provided by traditional ceiling lights.

The living area can be extended by turning the cab seats, meaning you could leave the bed made up

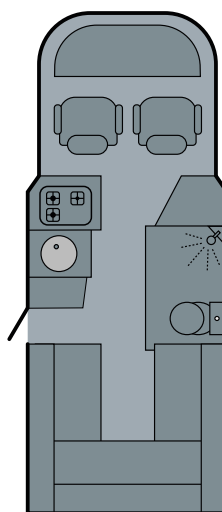
during the day and still have somewhere to relax. Storage at this end of the motorhome includes a cupboard with a chamfered front, making it easier to reach the cab but still giving a decent-sized wardrobe with space for the freestanding table.

The kitchen itself has everything you need, with a microwave thrown in. There's a three-burner hob, a stainless steel sink and a combined grill and oven. The Dometic fridge is below the sink and there's a little working space, though you'll probably need the table for any serious food preparation.

Opposite the kitchen is the washroom. Inside, the shower door protects the entrance door but not the toilet. Lunar has added a plastic cover to the toilet-roll holder, presumably to prevent it getting too wet if the shower is in use. The towel rail is positioned above the toilet, and again this is likely to be in the line of fire for the shower unless you're careful. Nevertheless, the washroom is a good size for such a compact vehicle.

The standard Cassini EL has a Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) of 3,500kg, so it's suitable for those with a B-class driving licence, with a still-decent payload of just over 700kg. If you're licenced to drive it, however, you can request a MAM upgrade to 3,800kg.

Items such as cab air conditioning, cruise control and satnav don't come as standard so you'll need to invest £1,400 in the Driver's Pack to get them. An automatic gearbox will set you back another £3,000, but if you're looking for a functional, practical motorhome without the frills, the new Cassini should definitely be on your shortlist.



The seating area forms the bed at night



at a glance

Price as tested

£42,393

Prices start at

£40,994

Club Care insurance

£656

Base vehicle

Renault Master

Engine as tested

2.3-litre, 130bhp, six-speed manual gearbox

Emissions category

Euro 6

Electrics

Four 230V socket; 92Ah leisure battery

Gas locker

Space for two 6kg cylinders

On-board tanks

90-litre fresh water; 65-litre wastewater

Length x width x height

6.4m x 2.7m x 2.69m

Berths

Two travel and sleeping

Bed sizes

Double 2.11m x 1.82m or two singles 1.82m x 0.73m

Mass in Running Order

2,796kg

Maximum Authorised Mass

3,500kg

User payload

704kg

C1 licence required

No

Warranty

Four years base vehicle; three years conversion; ten years water ingress

Manufacturer

Lunar

Web

www.lunarcaravans.com

verdict

A good, practical motorhome without the frills but at a keen price with a decent warranty.