

# Great and Small

Take a ride in a dozen new mini-motorhomes and van campers



Compared with the ever-changing towable market and the competitive class A gas and diesel industry, the mini-motorhome and van-camper segments have been relatively quiet. The same class C manufacturers keep delivering 24- to 32-foot coaches to their core audience, and the class B van market, dominated by Canadian builders, continues to cater to its legion of fans.

But things are definitely changing. As you'll see on the following pages, the Dodge Sprinter chassis has become the platform of choice after only a couple of years in the North American RV market. Powered by an imported Mercedes-Benz diesel engine, the Sprinter creates the most fuel-conscious motorhomes in years while yielding all the benefits of Mercedes know-how. It's been like a breath of fresh air for small motorhome builders.

—BRENT PETERSON

## WINNEBAGO OUTLOOK

Brand new for 2006, the Outlook and its whopping 10 floor plans pretty much nail down the range of the class C spectrum. Whether you're looking to downsize from a class A or upgrade from a smaller trailer, camper van or tent, Winnebago makes a strong argument for the mini-motorhome.

Outlook models begin at 22 feet, a nice starting point for a couple or young family. This rear-kitchen/bathroom floor plan provides a novel layout, and it's a nice unit for those unafraid to bunk over the cab. Of course, the big daddy of the Outlook bunch, the 32-footer, comes complete with multiple sleeping options, including your choice of a rear queen bed or a pair of twins, plus a sofa bed and the cabover bunk. Those looking for something in between should consider the 27-foot unit, with its pair of slide-outs.

Winnebago's unique Smart Storage system, available on selected floor plans, creates more basement storage but also provides slide-out trays for bulkier items, full extension drawers and pullout pantries.

**MSRP: \$60,193 to \$75,963**

**CONTACT: Winnebago Industries**

**(641) 585-3535, [www.winnebagoind.com](http://www.winnebagoind.com)**

## HOME & PARK ROADTREK RS ADVENTUROUS

The Dodge Sprinter chassis has been nothing short of a revolution for smaller motorhome builders, especially those involved in the class B segment. After all, a little fuel economy goes a long way these days. But it's the mystique and performance behind its Mercedes-Benz diesel engine that's the true topper.

Home & Park recently jumped on the Sprinter bandwagon with their Roadtrek RS Adventurous lineup. We appreciate the way the cockpit chairs rotate to join in the conversation in the living area. The rear bedding combines with an optional folding mattress positioned over the laid-flat chairs up front to sleep four. Not bad for 22 feet worth of usable space.

The full-time shower (no wraparound curtain or drain to employ), toilet and vanity sink bring a little comfort and stability to personal grooming. Other Adventurous perks include a convection/microwave oven, a 3.8-cubic-foot



refrigerator, a 16,000-Btu furnace, a 5,000-pound hitch and 55 cubic feet of storage.

**MSRP: \$77,935**

**CONTACT: Home & Park, (888) ROADTREK, [www.roadtrek.com](http://www.roadtrek.com)**



## GULF STREAM VISTA CRUISER MINI

Naturally, Gulf Stream chose the emerging industry favorite—the Mercedes-Benz 2.7-liter, five-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine—to provide the power behind their new pair of Vista Cruiser Mini models. The added performance, reliability and fuel economy makes this a compelling choice.

However, it's what consumers don't see that the company is equally proud of, namely their Super Strength Truss System. This complex foundation of welded steel trusses on the Vista's chassis is designed to evenly distribute the forces of travel.

Interior appointments are far less covert. We're guessing you'll have no trouble finding uses for the 20-inch LCD TV, the 3.6-kilowatt Onan generator, the 13,500-Btu air conditioner and the convection/microwave oven. A living-room slide-out, pantry, cab-over space and 6 feet, 5 inches worth of headroom also come along for the ride.

**MSRP: \$77,379**

**CONTACT: Gulf Stream Coach  
(800) 289-8787, [www.gulfstreamcoach.com](http://www.gulfstreamcoach.com)**

## PLEASURE-WAY 20TH ANNIVERSARY PLATEAU

Pleasure-Way has come a long way since opening its doors in 1986 with a mere 12 employees. The company now ranks as one of Canada's largest class B builders (and there a lot of class B builders in Canada!), celebrating their founding with a 20th-anniversary-edition Plateau. Or make that three Plateaus. The difference among the trio comes down to the choice of rear bedding, with either a pair of small beds or an electric sofa bed, round table and pair of ottomans.

Every Plateau comes built on the Dodge Sprinter chassis (yes, the one with the Mercedes diesel engine) and a pleasing list of standards. For instance, in addition to stainless-steel appliances, the galley boasts some 7 feet of counter space. The bathroom also overachieves with a flush toilet, a shower, a sink and a vanity. All this in the Sprinter's 22-foot shell.

Other niceties include a 17-inch flip-down LCD TV, Ultraleather seating, a 5,000-pound towing capacity, an exterior shower and fiberglass running boards.

**MSRP: \$75,270**

**CONTACT: Pleasure-Way Industries  
(800) 364-0189, [www.pleasureway.com](http://www.pleasureway.com)**

