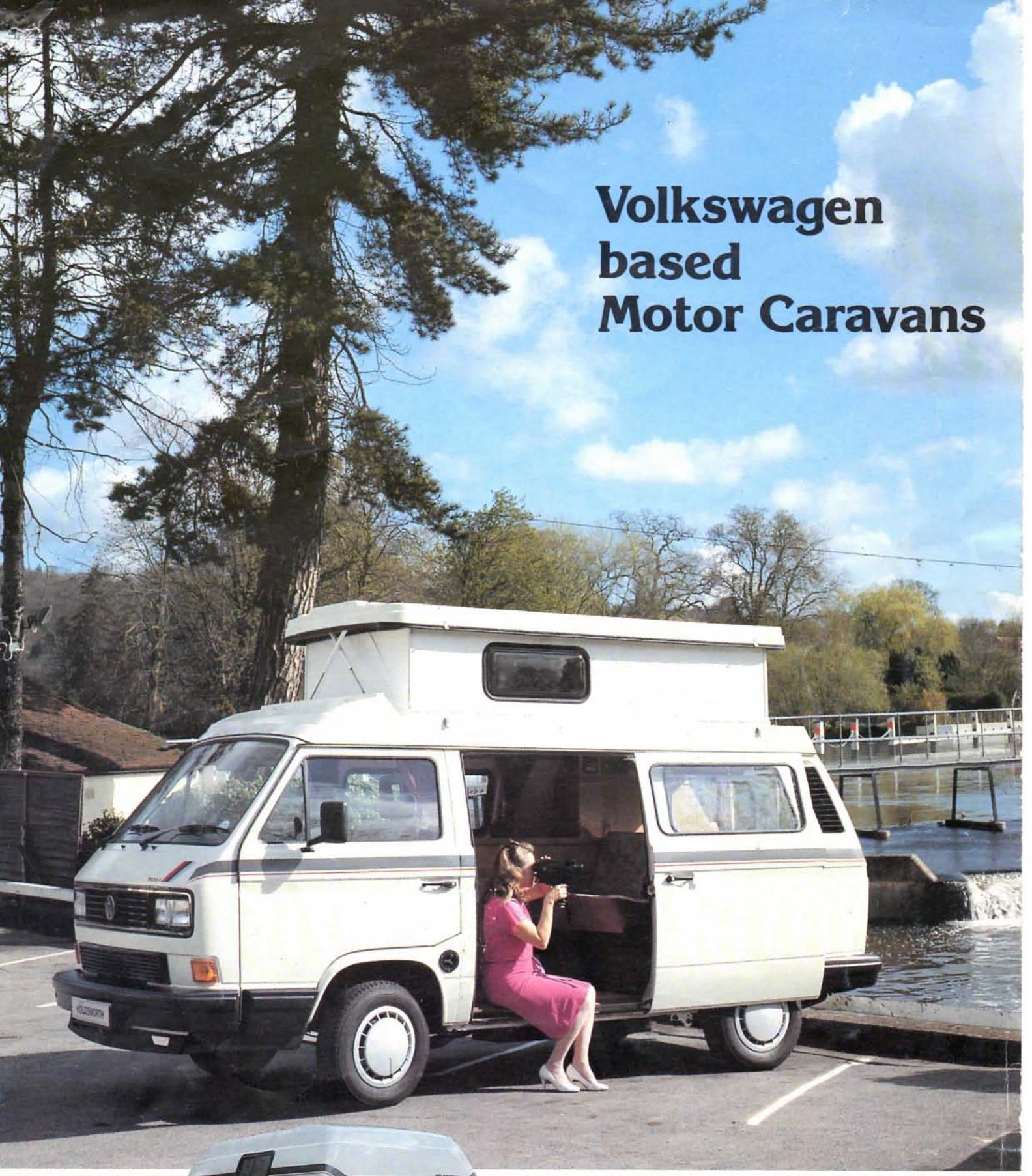
Volkswagen based Motor Caravans



Richard Holdsworth

VILLA 3

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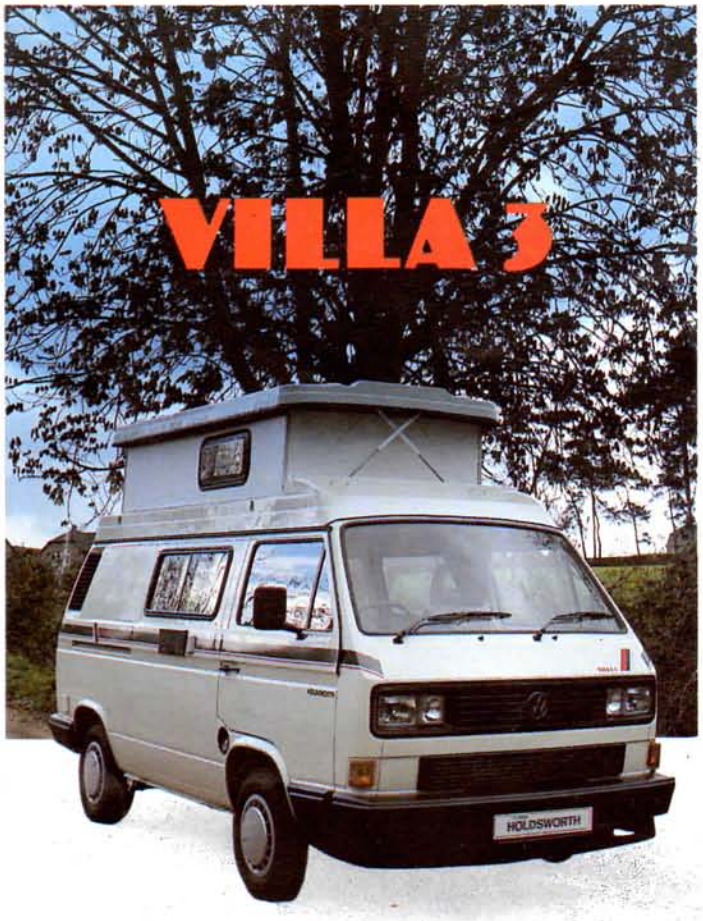

Villa 3 – first choice...

There are several Volkswagen based motor caravans with layouts similar to the Villa 3 – but none that's as well equipped, has the quality of constuction nor the attention to detail that the Villa 3 has – and that's a fact.

Back in 1985, the Villa 2 was voted 'Best Elevating Roof Motor Caravan' at the Earls Court Caravan Show – the first time that a Volkswagen based motor caravan has won this prestigeous award.

And every year since that date, Richard Holdsworth designers have made constant improvements until the latest Villa 3 has automatically become the motor caravan enthusiasts' first choice.

Villa 3 – First choice for specification:

When it comes to specification, you will find the Villa 3 is a motor caravan without equal.

Take, for example, the subject of second battery. Every experienced motor caravanner knows the dismay felt at finding a 'flat' battery after a few day's camping and yet many motor caravans still do not have a second battery. Even when a second – or caravan – battery and it's 'split' charger is available, it can cost an extra £200.

Not so with the Villa 3. Mains hook-up, split charger and second battery are all standard. And so, too, is the earth leakage breaker, the safety 'trip' which automatically cuts off electrical power in the event of a potentially dangerous fault developing.

There are other thoughtful touches for the Villa 3 owner. Like individual reading lights at the bed-head, plus 220 volt plug for any domestic appliances you might like to take with you – portable TV, electric kettle, even your electric shaver.

There is a special compartment for your chemical toilet – situated of course, well away from the kitchen unit, refrigerator and your food compartment!!

Kitchen: At the heart of every Volkswagen based motor caravan is the long storage/kitchen unit and on the Villa 3 discerning motor caravanners find features that make light work out of preparing every meal.

The cooker, sink and drainer is a one-piece unit because these are so much easier to keep clean. And because the unit is in the latest vitreous enamel finish, it only needs a wipe clean at the end of the day to come up looking like new again.

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There is a simply enormous larder with the convenience of lift out trays for your tinned food and cutlery while the last word in luxury is provided by a cocktail cabinet to keep your favourite night cap close at hand.

Fitted as standard is the big 2-litre Electrolux 212 refrigerator with triple operation – vehicle or mains electrics and bottled gas. Better still, it has electronic ignition that lights the fridge when on bottled gas and warns of any interruption to the gas supply.

And talking about gas supply, another Villa 3 exclusive that you will appreciate is the storage for gas cylinders. Like most other conversions, the Villa 3's supply is at the base of the kitchen unit – but unlike others the cylinders are stored in a special tray that slides out at the touch of a finger when required and slides back when not.

Thus the normal back-breaking chore of changing gas cylinders becomes a light and simple exercise.

Villa 3 – First choice come night time:

The way some manufacturers build their beds you'd be excused for thinking that a degree in advanced engineering was essential just to get a good night's sleep.

But not so for the owner of the Villa 3. In place of fussy and complicated flaps and sliding bolts, Villa 3 owners have those marvellous German rock-and-roll bed mechanisms that just drop the bed into place in one movement. And just one movement back to a sumptuous lounge at the start of the next day. It really is that simple!!

If you specify the Villa 3 with the Richard Holdsworth's fully insulated elevating roof, you will find that lifting or lowering the roof is just as simple because of its fail-safe, one-action movement. And amazingly it's still the only one of its kind on the market.

One push and up it goes – thanks to four gas struts of the sort used on all the latest estate car tailgates. Stop the roof just short of fully erect front or back and you have ample ventilation – if you want more then leave both ends one stop away from fully raised.

In really hot weather (the Continent, perhaps) it's a real boon. The Villa 3 can be left unattended with the roof half raised for maximum ventilation with little risk of the vehicle being broken into.

Villa 3 – First choice for quality:

Quality is often the first ingredient that the experienced motor caravanner looks for. He knows that chipboard and plastic edging may be passable on an ordinary home but when that home is on four wheels then something better is essential.

And that better quality is to be found throughout the Villa 3. All doors, for example, are carried on full length, brass piano hinges and catches are not the sort that fly open on the first corner. Naturally, all the units are constructed from solid timber and fittings such as worktop edgings and door handles are all hand carved from natural Beechwood.

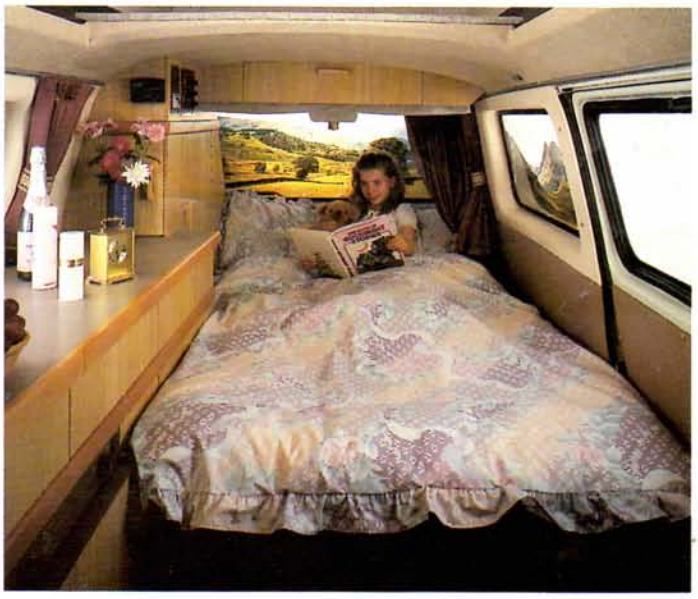
Villa 3 – First choice for choice:

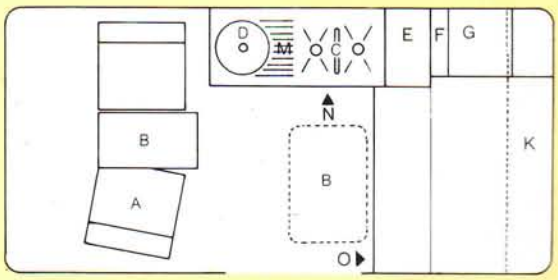
For a start, the Villa 3 is available in three different forms – a fixed roof (for those with garaging problems), with the unique Richard Holdsworth solid sided roof and – finally – with Volkswagen's own high top.

High tops are becoming more and more popular and the Villa HT wins hands down because of the use of Volkswagen's own high top with standing height from the rear seat right to the front windscreen. There's a pair of handy cupboards at the front of the high top and an optional, lift out shelf for even more storage.

Around the rear are more cupboards – built in such a way as to provide maximum storage yet out of the way when occupants move around the van. Cracked heads are a thing of the past in the Villa HT!!

Villa and Vision motor caravans are fitted exclusively with Electrolux refrigerators...





Villa 3

External Dimensions
Length 15'0" (4.57m)
Width 6'1" (1.84m)
Height 7'01/2" (2.15m) (non roof 6'6" (1.98m)

Bed Sizes
Double bed 6'2" × 4'2" (max)
Optional cab bunk 4'8" × 2'2"
Optional roof bed 5'4" × 3'8"
(6'0" × 3'3" available)

KEY

A Swivel Cab Seat	E Storage	M Drainer
B Table	F Drinks Cabinet	N Large Fridge
C Cooker	G Wardbrobe	O Toilet
D Sink	H Flexi-Seat	P Folding Door
	K Roof Cabinets	

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BASED ON A VOLKSWAGEN

Whichever model of Volkswagen based Motor Caravan from Richard Holdsworth you choose you can be sure of the same high build quality and finish.

The forward control design gives maximum visibility from the driving position and provides high utilisation of the rear space within compact overall dimensions. But with no bonnet area forward of the front seats Volkswagen engineers were particularly careful to include a sophisticated body structure. The benefits of this design have been proven by extensive tests and trials.

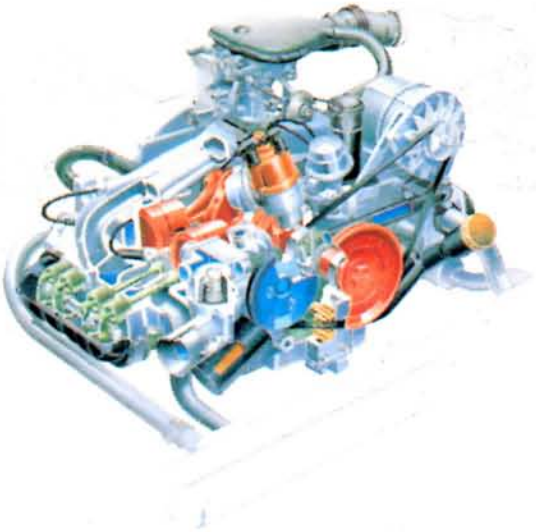
A forked frame floor structure, cross members with vertical struts, longitudinal members and door sections, together with rollover bars integrated in the body all combine to create a complete 'safety cell'. In the event of an accident, impact energy is first absorbed by the bumper and dissipated throughout a full width deformation element mounted immediately behind it.

Add to this a steering wheel with collapsible coupling and deformable mounting straps to provide a superior level of body strengthening. But clever design would not be complete without a high standard of build quality. This includes extensive corrosion protection measures incorporated at all stages of manufacture.

The most stringent criteria are applied even when selecting materials. Parts of the body which are particulary susceptible to corrosion are made of galvanised sheet steel. Cavity sealing and extensive treatment with wax preservative and PVC coatings, together help to provide protection against stone impact, water and moisture. Crucial corners, edges and joints are specially coated and sealed. All this means that rust has little chance and quality is assured.

In this way you can be sure of the highest quality standards from both Volkswagen and Richard Holdsworth.

For full technical details please refer to the relevant Volkswagen Commercial Vehicle Technical Information sheet.



Specifications

Engines
Petrol: 78bhp or 112bhp injection.
Diesel: 50bhp or Turbo-charged.
(All engines watercooled).

Gearbox
Five forward gears (all synchromesh) or automatic transmission.
4-wheel drive to special order.

Chassis
Frame and floor panel assembly with longitudinal and transverse girders, bumper bar deformation element in the front section and energy absorbing front.

Suspension
Independent all round. Front double wishbones, progressive coil springs with telescopic shock absorbers, anti roll bar. Rear – semi-trailing arm rear axle, miniblock springs with telescopic shock absorbers.

Steering
Rack and pinion.

Brakes
Dual circuit. Discs front and drum rear all power assisted.

Performance (max speed)
78 bhp petrol – 81 mph
112 bhp petrol – 94 mph
57 bhp diesel – 72 mph
70 bhp diesel – 79 mph
(Speeds subject to load and conditions)

Conversion recognised by V.A.G. (United Kingdom) Ltd.
Design registered and patented.

Our policy is one of continuous improvement and we reserve the right to alter the specifications and prices without prior notice.

Richard HOLDSWORTH

Headley Road East Woodley,
Nr. Reading Berks. ENGLAND
Tel: (0734) 692900 or 693731.

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