



Sprite Alpine 2

Light, stylish, well equipped and inexpensive - the new Sprite looks set to steal the limelight!

by Andy Jenkinson



The Sprite Alpine's new look is superb, but we'd like to see bolder colours for the graphics.

Model:	Sprite Alpine 2
Price:	£11,495 suggested
Length:	n/a
Width:	n/a
MIRO:	n/a
MTPLM:	1150 kg
Berths:	2

We like: Profile, solid build, bonded roof, front locker size, light weight, spacious front lounge, excellent washroom, roof locker storage, chrome catches, Diamond pack value.

We don't like: No roof vent in shower cubicle, upholstery, light blue side graphics; little else.

In our review of Swift's line-up for 2012 (issue 50, page 55), we predicted that the Sprite was about to see some changes. We guessed they would take their styling from the new Sport - and we were right!

WE had our first view of the new Sprite Alpine 2 while it was still being completed - in fact, it was awaiting a back panel! Otherwise, it was all but finished.

Sweeping looks make the Sprite the best-looking entry level tourer to hit the market. Sporting a one-piece front window, a bonded roof for greater strength, and a large front locker, the Sprite Alpine 2 looks pretty good. Graphics are finished in light blue - we reckon a darker colour would have given a bolder look.

The Sprite is to be built mainly with the Diamond Pack, which adds alloy wheels, an AI-Ko wheel lock receiver, spare wheel, a flyscreen for the door, a radio/CD player, and scatter cushions. We think a choice of upholstery would be a good idea for this option pack.

The interior looks so good, with new lockers and chrome push-button handles. Quality loose-fit carpets are fitted, and the upholstery is good quality with excellent support - but the colour and design don't quite cut it.



Scatter cushions are part of the Diamond Pack. Quality of seating is very good.

The front has a super lounge area that makes up into twin singles or a large double bed. Seat bases are extremely accessible, with beech slats and access flaps. A central chest of drawers is standard.

Lighting is provided by four corner spotlights and a ceiling light. Above, a small Heki lets in natural light and adds to the ventilation. The side roof lockers are deep, but the front ones are a tad small to store items of any size.

In the front lounge, a radio/CD player is fitted neatly in an offside locker, out of the way. One blown-air outlet is provided - perhaps two would be better. The small plastic console with two plug sockets is a great feature (there are four of these in all - brilliant!)



The front end makes into a large double bed; a chest of drawers is standard.

Interior is up-market. Plain-looking roof lockers are back in fashion; quality chrome handles add to the luxury feel. We'd like to see an upholstery option.



The Alpine 2 has a feeling of space and the new wood finish has an air of luxury about it.



A Truma heater means you don't have to rely on the blown-air system for heating.

On the nearside is a side dresser with a Truma heater. I'm glad to see Swift have kept the Truma, because if all power fails you still have heat! A drawer and a shelf are fitted here, plus a power point and a 12-volt plug. There's some useful extra worktop, and a roof locker.

The centre kitchen comes with a 112-litre fridge, three-burner hob and oven with spark ignition. There's good storage and worktop, and a Swift-fitted granite sink (but no microwave). It looks good, and doesn't give the impression of an entry level tourer.



All service points are positioned on the offside wall.



Side kitchen comes with 112-litre fridge and spark-ignition oven.

Roof lockers offer extra storage; a strip light under the roof locker gives the kitchen enough light for night-time use. The control panel is fitted over the door for easy access as you enter the caravan.

The end washroom is a real treat. A cracking wardrobe offers plenty of hanging space for two, while the central hand basin has brilliant storage beneath. We think the sink is a tad shallow, but that's a matter of taste. An electric flush loo is fitted, and there's a side window.

The shower cubicle is brilliant, but it needs a roof vent to allow daylight and air into this part of the washroom. It's well designed and very spacious with good storage.



Aerodynamically-shaped front window allows good vision.



Sturdy grab handles are fitted.



Brilliant front locker is a big bonus - there's plenty of room for the optional spare wheel with the Diamond pack.



Kitchen has decent roof locker storage, but the spec doesn't include a microwave.



Washroom comes with electric flush loo, side window and great wardrobe.



Front access is fantastic: side flaps and large locker opening make bedding easy to store.

Verdict

The new Sprites look set to steal the limelight at the shows, and I reckon sales will be pretty good. There will be more models in the line-up, something the range has lacked until now.

A good MTPLM means that most family cars will be able to tow the new Sprite. Personally, I'd like to see a change of upholstery, but some buyers will like it.

The launch is taking place at the NEC. By the time you read this, the first batches may have begun to arrive at your local dealership. My advice is to go and have a look, because I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. The new Sprites are looking good!

More information: www.swiftgroup.co.uk

Our thanks to Swift Group for their help with this test.

