

A DIFFERENT LOOK

WINNEBAGO'S VISTA 30W CLASS A MOTORHOME FEATURES A FLOORPLAN THAT SHOULD APPEAL EVEN TO THE TRAVEL-TRAILER CROWD

by Kristopher Bunker

Look, ma, no tow vehicle! As if the hundreds of models to choose from when searching for a new RV wasn't already dizzying enough, Winnebago Industries has gone and made a Class A motorhome — yes, a Class A motorhome — that could force even the most dyed-in-the-wool trailerists to rethink their buying strategies.

The 2010 Vista 30W features a wide-open, amenity-laden floorplan that's perfectly suited for couples or small families — and does so in an easily manageable 30-foot package.

I'm clearly most at home when at the helm of a truck or SUV as a tow vehicle, but driving the Vista was actually a fun diversion. A couple of minutes to get adjusted to the bus-driver-style seating, and I was in business. In fact, taking into consideration the average lengths of the tow vehicles and trailers I'm generally piloting, the Vista is one of the smaller RVs I've been on the road with in a while — and the proof is in the driving.

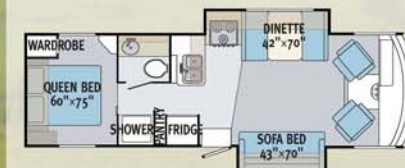
The Vista is built on the Ford F53 chassis and powered by a 6.8-liter V-10 Super Duty engine, which showed no signs of significant slowing even as I tackled our requisite 7-percent grade on the way to the campsite. Braking was smooth and controlled, and the transmission responded appropriately while heading up the hills.



TRAILER LIFE



VISTA 30W



PERFORMANCE

FUEL ECONOMY: 8.9 mpg

ACCELERATION:

0-60 MPH: 20 sec

40-60 MPH: 11 sec

CHASSIS

MODEL: Ford F53

ENGINE: Ford 6.8-liter V-10

HP: 362 @ 4,750 rpm

TORQUE: 457 lb-ft @ 3,250 rpm

TRANSMISSION: 5-spd auto

AXLE RATIO: 5.38:1

TIRES: 245/70R19.5

WHEELBASE: 190"

BRAKES: Hydraulic w/ABS

SUSPENSION: Leaf spring

FUEL CAP: 75 gal

WARRANTY: 36 mo/36,000 mi

COACH

EXT LENGTH: 30' 11"

EXT WIDTH: 8' 5"

EXT HEIGHT: 12' 4"

INT WIDTH: 8'

INT HEIGHT: 6' 8"

CONSTRUCTION: Steel and aluminum framing, steel cab structure, fiberglass skin and roof, EPS block-foam insulation

FRESHWATER CAP: 72 gal

BLACK/GRAY WATER CAP: 37/42 gal

WATER HEATER CAP: 6 gal

LP-GAS CAP: 18 gal

FURNACE: 30,000 BTU

AIR CONDITIONER: 14,800 BTU

REFRIGERATOR: 6 cu ft

CONVERTER: 45 amps

BATTERY: (1) 12-volt chassis/

(2) 12-volt coach

AC GENERATOR: 4.0kW

MSRP, BASE: \$94,513

MSRP, AS TESTED: \$104,411

WARRANTY: 12 mo/15,000 mi

WET WEIGHT

(water & heater, fuel, lp-gas tanks full; no supplies or passengers)

FRONT AXLE: 5,450 lb

REAR AXLE: 9,730 lb

TOTAL: 15,360 lb

CHASSIS RATINGS

GROSS AXLE WEIGHT RATING, F/R:

7,000/12,000 lb

GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING:

18,000 lb

GROSS COMBINATION WEIGHT RATING:

26,000 lb

OCCUPANT AND CARGO CARRYING

CAPACITY (NO FRESHWATER): 3,238 lb

PHOTOS BY RICH COX PHOTOGRAPHY