

FCA has unveiled the new 4x4 version of Fiat Ducato

With new Ducato 4x4, Fiat Professional confirms its leadership in the recreational vehicles sector. The new version is a four-wheel drive, all-terrain vehicle which immensely extends the potential for motorhome travel.

Words Enrico Bona

Ducato is born to be a motorhome, and it is constantly evolving, drawing on very long experience in the recreational vehicle sector, a vocation now also expressed in the new 4x4 versions. In a moment that remarks expectations for more than 106,000 registrations in the motorhome segment during 2017, an increase of more than 10 percent compared to last year, for the tenth time, Ducato has once again been chosen as the "Best Motorhome Base" by the readers of top German magazine Promobil, confirming its leadership in the sector. Ducato 4x4 is a four-wheel drive, all-terrain vehicle which immensely extends the potential for motorhome travel. The four-wheel drive is permanent, with two transfer-boxes and an automatic central viscous coupling. This ensures the right drive torque distribution between the front and rear wheels, optimising traction on mud, snow and sand. Ducato 4x4 also offers all the features of robustness and performance needed to tackle off-road trails, also with particular conversions which exploit entirely its payload. The 2006 generation of the Ducato has been the first model to be developed right from the design phase with a range specifically for motorhome conversion. Thenceforward every Ducato-based motorhome enjoyed the engineering benefits of being born to be a motorhome: not an adaptation, but "naturally a motorhome", with the strength of in-depth experience.



A revolution that seems to have no end. The current, and sixth, generation offers the highest gross vehicle weight in the segment, the highest front axle load (up to 2100 kg) and the highest rear axle load for vehicles with single-wheel rear axles (up to 2500 kg), as well as the highest maximum payload. The current generation of Ducato, called the X290, boasts the highest total ground weight in the segment: up to 4400

kilograms on motorhome version or 4250 kilograms on the van version. It is also available with air suspensions on the rear axle. The Ducato is now offered in 17,469 variants, created using different body, engine, transmission, mechanics and colour combinations. As a whole, the new exterior style stems from a cutting-edge "car design" which, teamed with the concept of a genuine light commercial vehicle, conveys



a strong sense of dynamism, safety, quality and sturdiness. Another outstanding feature is the possibility of customising the styling of the vehicle with a number of solutions: two different front grille colours, skid-plate highlighting the lower edge of the bumper, headlights with integrated DRL (also with LED) and a wide choice of light alloy rims. The technology which characterises the Ducato engines is the best

Aboutcamp BtoB had the chance to test the new Ducato 4x4. We think that it will be the perfect solution for people who wants an unrestrainable and all-around vehicle to discover the world.

Let's give the floor to Roberto Fumarola



Roberto Fumarola
Head of Recreational Vehicles FCA EMEA

“FIAT PROFESSIONAL has always been the Brand of reference for Recreational Vehicles Constructors. Our market is expanding. Our full-year forecast for 2017 in Europe is of over 106,000 new registrations: the best ever sales result for our industry. This positive trend is confirmed across all major Countries, with growth rates from 5% in the UK to 50% in Spain. France and Germany also continue to grow – and these two markets represent more than half of the industry. Overall volumes in Europe this year will increase by more than 10% compared to 2016, that already was a double-digit growth year. If the current trend is maintained, at the end of this year sales will have risen by 60% (so recovering 40,000 units) compared to the worst year (which, for our industry, was 2009) and total registrations will exceed for the second consecutive year the pre-crisis peak of 91,700 vehicles in 2007.

The campervan segment

The campervan is growing and this year will exceed 30% of the total market. This doesn't happen for economic reasons. The rise of the campervan stems from a different motivation: they are more agile, thanks to reduced mass and size, and offer greater flexibility and versatility. This is definitely an interesting signal, because it shows us that a growing number of Customers see RVs as something more than just free-time vehicles. This is all part of a gradual “repositioning” of the Recreational Vehicle, a process that reflects the changes underway in people's consumption habits. New lifestyles are more attentive to substance, to the relationship with nature, to the emotional value of things and experiences. Today, recreational vehicles are less a “status symbol” and more a lifestyle enabler not a conquest to

boast about, but a tool that makes it possible to “do new things” and to claim different experiences, far from the everyday routine. This new perception is also attracting young people to itinerant tourism again. We see an ever-increasing number of people who use their vehicles literally as “homes on wheels”. These are extreme cases, of course, but they are part of a trend towards escaping habits, seeking new emotions and creating a new relationship with the environment.

Ducato 4x4

Ducato 4x4 is an all-terrain 4-wheel-drive vehicle for discovery tourism and adventure trails. The “4 by 4” system has been completely re-designed, and now it also offers full integration with our safety systems (including stability control). The driveline features 2 transfer cases and offset longitudinal transmission. The all-wheel traction is based on an automatic viscous joint with free front and rear differentials. The vehicle will also be available with locking and/or limited-slip differential. Ducato 4x4 offers the solidity and performance needed to tackle trails even when carrying a full load. This is extremely important with recreational vehicles, which exploit the entire payload. The 4x4 version is the novelty of the year for Ducato, and will be in good company with the other all-wheel-drive vehicle in the FIAT PROFESSIONAL range – the Fullback. With Ducato 4x4, our goal is to address adventure fans and capture younger motorists, but also to provide campervan owners with all the certainties they need to have: safety, riding comfort (an essential condition for long trips), light weight (to leave room to the innovation of Manufacturers and the imagination of Customers), robustness and reliability, founded on an “LCV culture” well rooted not only in our engineering department, but also in our SEVEL plant.



example of the specific work carried out to improve efficiency with a focus on eco-friendliness. The engines, all Euro 6B, are provided with Low Pressure EGR technology (LPERG), which intercepts the exhaust gases after the DPF and returns them to the intake manifold via a low pressure circuit. This system has two advantages: it abates NOx emissions by means of a lower combustion temperature and saves fuel by ensuring better efficiency. Furthermore, all the engines in the Ducato line-up are at the top of their class in terms of fuel efficiency and deliver high torque even at low rpm, an essential feature for motorhome drivers. The Multijet2 engine range comprises four power levels, from 115 to 180 HP: an offering capable of satisfying the most diverse needs of motorhome manufacturers and users. The “Comfort Matic”, an electrohydraulically operated robotized sequential transmission, which combines the reliability and light weight of the 6-speed manual transmission from which it is derived with the convenient option of fully automatic mode, is available on all the 2300 cc engines. Ducato is also amazing in terms of high-tech contents with its many safety and driving assist devices, in addition to the new Infotainment system. All versions are supplied with electronic stability control (ESC), Hill Holder for easier hill starts, anti-slip regulation (ASR), electronic emergency brake assist (EBA). Drive-assist systems include Traction+ and the innovative Hill Descent Control system, the lane departure warning system, traffic sign recognition (TSR) and automatic full beam headlight control. Ducato also offers a wide range of radios, all with Bluetooth technology and MP3 player. In addition, a 5” touchscreen Uconnect™ system is available, as well as reverse camera and built-in satellite navigation system. The whole line-up is available with Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) decoder, as well as conventional analogue radio. The service concept does not stop with product assistance but includes caring for customers on holiday by being on hand at all times. Twenty multilingual Fiat Professional Brand Ambassadors are ready to take calls on the motorhome toll-free number in 44 European countries, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A particular customer care services is the “Conciergerie”: by calling the same Camper Assistance toll-free number, customers can speak with an operator who helps them explore the additional service package, free for two years from the first registration date, which provides tourist information and help in locating and booking parking areas, camp-sites, transport, restaurants and much, much more.