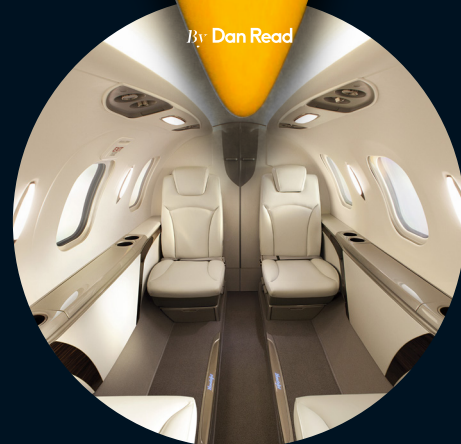




HIGH FLYERS

The world's best bizjets

By Dan Read



\$4.5m

HA-420 HONDAJET

Thirty years in the making, the HondaJet is finally being delivered to customers. There's a reason it took so long – Honda engineered it from scratch, pioneering the overwing engine layout that reduces cabin noise and improves fuel economy. Cars, bikes, lawnmowers, compact jets... is there anything they won't build?



Bumpy ride? Blame the turbulence. Definitely that

£230m

BBJ 787-8 VVIP

When you're a multi-billionaire, a BBJ is just a phone call away. Boeing Business Jets was founded in 1996 and makes private planes based on its commercial airliners. This is the latest, based on the 787 Dreamliner – the fuel-efficient, carbon-composite passenger jet with swept wing tips and a cabin designed to minimise tiredness on long-haul flights (it can fly for 17 hours and 9,800 miles). The interior design includes high-domed ceilings, hardwood flooring, marble bathrooms, a huge double bed, walk-in showers, and hand-tufted carpet with silk accents, which are like Brummie accents only posher.



If we had £13bn, this is exactly how we'd do up our jet

£215m

PRINCE AL-WALEED BIN TALAL'S BOEING 747

According to Forbes, Prince Al-Waleed is the 41st richest person in the world, with just over £13bn in the bank. That's why you don't see him at the Heathrow bag drop, because he'll be lording it on an actual throne in his private jumbo jet, which shows all the good taste and restraint of a man whose other toys include a diamond-encrusted Mercedes SL. He was also the first person to order a private A380 superjumbo, which he planned to furnish with a Turkish bath and a garage for his Rolls-Royce Phantom, though after the 2008 financial crisis the plane was never actually completed. Cheapskate.



£50m

GULFSTREAM G650ER

One of the quickest, rangiest bizjets in the sky, the G650 flies at just under the speed of sound at an altitude of 50,000 feet – well above most airliners. With eight passengers on board it'll fly non-stop from Hong Kong to New York, or from Melbourne to LA, or any other pair of cities 8,000 miles apart.



MERCEDES HELICOPTER

Basically a twin-engine EC145 (aka Eurocopter) decked out by Merc's special design dept. Price? About five million quid to you, sir

IMAGES: GETTY, LANCE BROAD, KESTREL AVIATION MANAGEMENT