



PIAGGIO AERO P.180 AVANTI II

✦ In the 1980s, roughly 80 years after its inception, Italian manufacturer Piaggio Aero began developing a plane to meet the growing demand for high-performance aircraft that cost less than jets. The company's first offering along these lines was the P.180 Avanti, which achieved certification in 1990. Fifteen years later the project culminated with the Piaggio Aero P.180 Avanti II, a \$7.2 million piston-engine aircraft that is "the best thing in the air," according to a Robb Report reader who lives in Malibu, Calif. "I love that airplane," he says. "It

has a big, wide cabin and half the cost of a Beechcraft." A frequent traveler on Avantair's fractional fleet of Avanti aircraft, he says that the plane's efficiency and comfort are its most appealing characteristics. The Avanti II's non-cylindrical fuselage and rear-mounted wings with rearfacing Pratt & Whitney engines offer very little drag, and their placement within the aircraft's overall design makes it possible to have an unusually large nine-passenger cabin. "A light jet is too small," he says, "and with comparable aircraft, there is no contest."

Robb Report

