

ABARTH 595 COMPETIZIONE

By Jim Mc Cauley



With the latest development of the Abarth 595, the company has endowed the scorpion badge with more powerful engines and a higher level of standard equipment. The model line-up comprises three trim levels, 595, Turismo and Competizione with the latter specification being the subject of this road test. Powered by the 1.4 litre turbo engine, this 180hp unit takes the car from rest to 62mph in 6.7 seconds with the potential, for the brave, to see a top speed of 140mph. The test car shares the 5-speed manual gearbox with the rest of the range, but an Abarth robotised sequential gearbox with shift paddles is also available.

For the ride ahead, the driver fits snugly into the Sabelt sports seats, and the dual mode Monza exhaust system snaps at the rear to get the car moving. And move it does, digesting the gears quicker than it seems possible, with the suspension totally unforgiving to the comfort of the occupants.

There was an innocence in the personality of the original 500 when it was launched, but with the latest 595 Abarth is is clearly a case of innocence lost as it offers a response that no small car ought to concede as it teases the driver to keep the power on.

The 595 Competizione, uniquely within the range, is the only model to have the option of the 'Performance Pack' which includes the larger 17-inch alloys and mechanical slip differential for improved grip in extreme conditions. This £3,000 extra also includes the Sabelt leather / Alcantara seats with carbon fibre shells as well as special paint options.





Four-pot Brembo brakes provide the confidence to restrain enthusiasm and it takes a little time to achieve the sensible balance that the car ultimately provides.

Contrasting with the rawness of the performance is the luxury of the interior including a 7-inch colour touch screen for the infotainment control and the company's 'Uconnect Live' services incorporating Apple CarPlay and Google Android Auto.

In terms of running costs, the 595 Competizione has an official combined fuel consumption of 47.1mpg with a CO2 emissions of 139gms/km.

The model tested is listed at £20,360 and in addition featured the Performance Pack, special paint and upgraded audio equipment bringing the total to just over £24,000. For business users the car has a BIK rating of 22% and all models are covered by the company's 3-year / 60,000 mile warranty.