

## A Surprise Package the Peugeot 208 GT Line

You could have fooled me, the Peugeot 208 GT Line which I recently tested performed like a 1.6 litre; no under the bonnet a 1.2 litre three cylinder engine with 110bhp at the command of the right foot.

Rarely have I enjoyed a small hatchback as much, not just from the performance but with drive quality and a surprising amount of interior space.



This model from the 208 range is offered in two bodystyles, three or five door; my test car had five doors and some may feel that the three door version is sportier in the looks department.

Look back at the history of small hatchbacks from this famous French carmaker and many are legendary none more so than the 205 GTI, once the car to own and on the rally stages of the world Peugeot dominated, today they still feature in rallies around the globe.

Returning to performance and the sprint

to 62mph takes 9.8 seconds and on to a top speed of just shy of 120mph. While looking at economy and I managed an average figure of 45.5mpg.

Part of my chosen test route was somewhat off the beaten track for me, I decided to journey to Donegal and drive a slice of the Wild Atlantic Way. I have often read in various publications writers raving about great drive routes in far away places. We have one near at home with the Wild Atlantic Way, little wonder that Donegal is such a popular county for rallying.

Taking on a variety of demanding roads, the small engine allied to a six speed automatic gearbox proved ideal for the task and the road holding proved to be very good and even the ride for such a compact car was surprising.

Of course the modern day driver does demand more from his car than just performance, road holding and economy and quite rightly so. Just like a larger car the 208 GT Line is well equipped and certainly does not disappoint in this respect.

Looks are important and the clean lines of this Peugeot is complemented by tasty alloy wheels, 17 inch in size which gives this small number quite a chunky look. Other exterior details, GT badging, single chrome exhaust pipe, electric/heated door mirrors and an equaliser grille.



The sports theme travels through to the well appointed interior complete with a race-style steering wheel. Seating is comfy and sports in design with eye catching stitching. Often with a car of this type there is the use of aluminium, with the 208 GT Line comes door sill finishers and pedals in the said metal.

Keeping the cabin comfy regardless of the elements outside, dual zone automatic air conditioning.

Like so many cars on the market today, there are options available and my test car came with Active City Brake, Park Assist with a reversing camera, sat nav and DAB radio.

I simply found the 208 GT Line equipped to my liking; however the highlight was the way it took to the road.

The Peugeot 208 GT Line was pictured at Horn Head in County Donegal.

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