

Lexus GS F is a Stunner

by Ian Lynas



Lexus has in its armoury a saloon to match the best that the German carmakers can muster, the GS F. Fitting that it should have been given its European performance debut at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, no better place.

With a V8 engine nicely placed beneath its sleek bonnet it was dynamically honed on the famous Nurburgring Nordschleife circuit during its development programme.

In the best traditions of Lexus's F models, such as the LFA and new RC F

coupe, the GS F is designed and engineered for those who can really enjoy such a car. Based on the GS saloon, it benefits from significant revisions to sharpen its performance and handling. The body shell is reinforced, the suspension is sports-tuned and Lexus's Torque Vectoring Differential, first seen on the RC F coupe is fitted as standard.

However for many the joy of this special Lexus is the normally aspirated five litre V8 engine which gives the driver 470bhp to cope with; take it from me this is not a car for the faint hearted as I discovered.

Mated to a lightning quick eight-speed automatic transmission which offers a manual shift capability and four driver-selectable operating modes: Normal, Eco, Sport S and, designed specifically for race track driving, Sport S+.

Weighing in at 1,830kg, the rear-wheel drive saloon promises rapid acceleration and a top speed to give some race cars a run for their money.

In addition to being powerful, the 32-valve DOHC engine is fuel efficient, engineered to operate on the Atkinson cycle in everyday running and to switch seamlessly to the Otto cycle for performance driving and cruising at speed.

Structural reinforcements and an exclusive suspension design captures the potential offered by its high-power engine.

The intention of the engineers and designers behind this model was to achieve sports car-like handling, with extensive circuit testing in Japan and Germany.

The GS F rides on 255/35R19 tyres at the front and 275/35R19 at the rear with an uprated braking system which combine to provide exceptional high-speed stability and sports car agility, with near-neutral handling balance through almost every kind of corner.

An innovative Torque Vectoring Differential, which made its debut in the RC F, features in a comprehensive standard equipment list.

With this Lexus model comes looks to match the on road performance, a more powerful, performance-focused dimension, witnessed in the larger, more pronounced spindle grille with its dedicated F-model mesh pattern and the large air vents integrated cleanly into the front bumper section.

The sporty frontal appearance is further emphasised by the slim, angled headlights and signature L-motif daytime running lights.

With a low stance the GS F equipped with nineteen inch wheels sends out a clear message, a car to be driven and enjoyed.

Moving to the interior, an extremely well appointed cabin, details include an electronic instrument display that automatically adjusts content and appearance according to the selected drive mode.

The custom-designed front and rear seats provide extra lateral support, without sacrificing comfort. Wide use of high-grade Alcantara adds further to the quality of this car.

With such a performance package safety is paramount and to keep all onboard safe, Lexus's Pre-Crash Safety system provides alerts, braking assistance and automatic braking to help avoid a collision, or mitigate the consequences of an impact.

Lexus Safety System+ includes Lane Departure Alert and an Adaptive High Beam System for better night-time vision.

A very complete and extremely well appointed high performance saloon.