

## Sleek and Sporty new Coupes from Audi

by Ian Lynas

The past nine years has witnessed the Audi A5 Coupe become one of the most popular vehicles in its premium class, now an all new version takes to our roads including the high performance S5 Coupe variant.

It could be said that the A5 Coupe was born out of the original Quattro which proved so popular not just for road use but with versions taking the world of rallying by storm.

I had the opportunity to briefly get behind the wheel of an A5 and the S5 and what struck me immediately, two things, comfort and technology.

I must emphasise the latest coupes to bear the names A5 and S5 are completely new and merely not a facelift exercise as is often the way from some car manufacturers.

There is a practical element as well; the new models boast a larger boot, now at 465 litres, which will be greatly appreciated by all who decide on either of the coupes.

Both are lighter which plays a part in delivering improved economy and better handling.

The S5 gets a new engine while the forecast from the good people at Audi, the two litre TDI 190PS diesel powered version of the A5 Coupe will be the most popular and again the forecast that 56 percent of sales will go to the S Line variants.

My short test drives allowed me to sample the A5 three litre TDI and the S5 with its gussy three litre power unit, both in quattro guise.

The six cylinder three litre TDI delivers a very useful 218Ps, enough to whisk you from rest to 62mph in just proud of six seconds and on to a top speed of 155mph while the S5 has 354PS to play with and very brisk acceleration, rest to 62mph in 4.7 seconds and a controlled top speed at 155mph.

The lesser powered of the two features a seven speed S tronic transmission while the S5 gets an extra cog as they say; both transmissions a sheer pleasure in operation and one of the joys of taking the wheel of an Audi.

There is such an impressive array of driver and safety aids on both cars with a strong emphasis on connectivity.

You can have predictive efficiency assistant n traffic jam assist, cross traffic



assist rear, collision avoidance and exit warning system.

The minute you get behind the wheel of the new Audis a greeting awaits, the unique instrument layout, how about the excellent MMI radio plus with superb speakers, the seven inch monitor and not to forget the Audi Smartphone Interface.

With the A5 you have three trim levels to select from, SE, Sport and as already noted the very popular S Line.

On the road how does it compare with offerings from its two major German rivals? First it scores on comfort and it does not feel like a competition car in the way that the BMW or Mercedes do. I would class the new coupes from Audi as great touring cars. Just the sort of transport for a long drive throughout Europe.

Now to the all important price; you can take the wheel of an A5 Coupe for £30,700 rising to £41,375 while the S5 comes in at £47,000.

However as always with this manufacturer there is a huge options list, leaving you depending on the size of your wallet to personalise your car.

The A5 Coupe which I tried had approximately seven thousand pounds worth of options while the S5 came close to the twelve thousand pound mark.

Yes the new models from Audi tick a lot of boxes, stylish with that feel of quality which this manufacturer continues to deliver so well.

driven November 2016