

The New Audi TT

Thoughts returned to 1998 and to Southern Italy to the launch of the original Audi TT, it even caused the Italians to turn their heads on that occasion and now we have the latest generations of the Roadster and the Coupe.



The Roadster is now in its third generation with the TTS Coupe in its second generation and I have no doubt they will continue to attract the gaze of many.

I had the opportunity to drive both newcomers and while the styling remains very much on the same theme as the original, the new models are high tech and feature increased power and decreased emissions.

With the Roadster comes two trim levels, Sport and S line and at launch a two litre TFSI 230PS engine in conjunction with front wheel drive or quattro all wheel drive. The two litre

TDI with 184PS is front wheel drive and I could certainly settle for this model. With a rest to 62mph in 7.3 seconds, a top speed of 147mph, a low emission figure of just 114g/km and the possibility of achieving 65mpg, a very tempting package.

Largely constructed of aluminium the Roadster features a fabric hood and it can be lowered and raised in just ten seconds and at speeds up to 30mph. Unlike its competitors Audi has chosen fabric instead of the metal folding variety.

All versions have the virtual cockpit which is based around a 12.3 inch high resolution LCD display which completely fills the driver's instrument binnacle. Out go the traditional analogue dials replaced by brilliant sharp images.

Two display modes are offered and Sport models have a Multi Media Interface with the MMI touchpad for fingertip date entry, Audi Music and Bluetooth connectivity.

Comfy and hugging sports seats are just what every driver of this type of car desires and the interior finish is sheer quality very much what we have come to expect from this German carmaker.

The Sport version rides on 18 inch alloys while the S line benefits from 19 inch alloys and no surprise as the suspension set up is of the sports variety. A tauter sports suspension is a no cost option for S line models and Xenon headlamps and daytime running lights are standard.



For those who desire performance then the sub five second rest to 62mph sprint courtesy of the TTS Coupe will find favour.

With its two litre TFSI engine the power output rises to an impressive 310PS and you can choose from a six speed manual transmission or a six speed S tronic transmission.



Like the Roadster the TTS Coupe features ground breaking cockpit technology which is a major feature throughout the new TT family.

With the combination of power and the latest quattro all wheel drive system from Audi performance and handling are very impressive.

For the first time quattro has been integrated into the Audi drive select system and you can adjust the operating parameters of the all wheel drive system to suit individual requirements.

Comparing the Roadster and the TTS Coupe, no surprise to report that the ride is much firmer with the latter, but in no

way is it harsh, says a lot for the engineers who have put the package together.

Clearly the TT family has taken yet another step forward to keep ahead of its competitors.

Prices for the TT Roadster start at £31,995 while £38,790 will open the door to the world of the TTS Coupe.

Ian Lynas