

Two Desirable Open Tops from Audi

by Ian Lynas

With thoughts of summer in mind, you might just desire a spot of open top motoring and there is nothing quite like that wind in your hair feeling.

Would it surprise you to learn that the UK is one of the biggest markets in Europe

for open top cars and as I discovered recently on an Audi event, this German premium car manufacturer have a wide choice in this area of the market.

I had the opportunity to try two models, one from the A5 range and the other from the TT family.

The A5 Cabriolet is just the sort of car you could imagine taking on holiday across Europe soaking up all that sun and as I tried a diesel version you would have the promise of excellent fuel economy.

With an eager 230PS from the diesel engine, according to figures issued by Audi, then 40mpg is on the cards and

performance is far from lacking with rest to 62mph taking just 7.2 seconds and on to a top speed of 150mph.

To get the max performance from this A5 model then include a German autobahn in your route.

Adding to the pleasure of driving this handsome set of wheels is the well proven S Tronic transmission and in my book it continues to be one of the best offered in any motor car today.

Now to price, £37,750 will get you behind the wheel of this A5 Cabriolet, but wait for it, the car I tried had a number of options fitted, most notable the fine Nappa leather in red, simply adding more luxury.

When I did the sums with all the goodies added, the final tally- £60,940.

I put my hand high I have always been a fan of the Audi TT right from the day I drove the first generation model in Italy and over the years Audi has fine tuned this car in every way.

So my second open top was the Roadster TFSI Sport, a manual six speeder with a very useful 180PS and in two wheel drive form.



This little package turned out to be sheer fun to drive and not lacking too far behind the A5 Cabriolet, rest to 62mph in the same time and just three miles per hour less at the top end.

A wallet pleasing 46mpg on the combined fuel cycle, again a figure provided by the manufacturer.

Behind the wheel I found the handling just to my liking and I know that there are more powerful versions in the TT family but this little open top number, thank you very much it is just for me.

Finished in an exterior white with black Alcantara leather it looks very smart and despite the TT being around for quite a number of years it did manage to turn heads.

Now to the wallet, price £28,085, but like the A5 Cabriolet it featured a number of options bringing the final tally to £34,425.

Which would be my pick, the TT and why? Because it was simply just great fun to drive.