

## The Vauxhall Astra Sport Tourer Practical and Sporty

by Ian Lynas

There is no doubt with the new Astra Vauxhall has delivered one of the best looking cars in its class and the style continues with the Sport Tourer, a model to



further broaden the appeal of the new Astra.

Built in the UK led by Mark Adams and his design team, the new Sport Tourer is 190kg lighter and extremely well packaged.

The lightweight chassis plays its part in terms of handling with this new model, a more agile package with comfort for driver and fellow travellers.

Many will recall when such a vehicle was simply named estate; well that word for some time has no longer been in fashion, hence terms such as Avant and Tourer have more style and class.

In order for me to get the feel of this

new offering from Vauxhall I found myself behind the wheel and with a 150PS 1.4 litre engine at the command of my right foot.

Looking at performance and certainly a surprise from the small capacity power unit a top speed of 134mph and rest to 62mph in 8.2 seconds.

When it comes to economy on the combined fuel cycle, the official figure from the manufacturer is just over 50mpg; to be fair I always take this figures as we say with a pinch of salt, no doubt 40mpg plus would be more the norm.

The emission figure is relatively high at 130g/km but that should not present any great annoyance for those who decide that the new Astra Sport Tourer is the vehicle for them.

What I like about this type of vehicle is its dual role, a sporty package when the desire arises or a practical set of wheels





when you need to transport an item or items that just will not fit into a small saloon or even a small hatchback, this is where this vehicle scores a lot of plus points.

With the rear seats down you have 1,640 litres to play with and the boot space alone is 540 litres.

The new Astra Sport Tourer is well appointed with an array of driver and comfort aids that we now expect from

our vehicles.

Just like many of its rival manufacturers Vauxhall offers a wide range of options and my test example came with an array, 18 inch alloy wheels (£395), tinted rear windows (£275), front and rear parking sensors (£475), electronic climate control (£395), winter pack (£345), PowerFlex bar (£45), fragrance diffuser (£40) and FlexOrganiser pack (£95).

If I had to pick from these options I would go for the parking sensors; when I drive a car minus parking sensors I really miss them, especially in supermarket parking bays which in the main are so cramped.

Like so many cars in the market today the new Astra Sport Tourer has a comprehensive connectivity package, now demanded by many.

Summing up this new addition to the Vauxhall range is most welcome and one that should find favour with a wide buying audience.



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