

Simply Stunning the New VW Golf GTi

The memories came flooding back as I took the wheel of the new Volkswagen Golf GTi. I can remember the arrival of the first generation GTi and like many I would liked to have put it on my shopping list, alas funds did not permit.

Over the years the GTi has evolved through its many additions and now we welcome the latest, a very complete car in every sense of the word and even more desirable than ever.

With the latest GTi there are two versions with power outputs of 220 and 230PS

respectively and I have been behind the wheel of the more powerful version.

The extra PS is accompanied by what Volkswagen term as a performance pack and for the extra £980 you get the already noted boost in power, larger front brakes, ventilated rear brake discs and a limited slip differential and take it from me this really transforms the car especially as regards braking, superb stopping power.

After all you just might need these brakes as this particular GTi can reach

62mph from rest in 6.4 seconds and if you can find a race track then you might just explore its top speed potential of 155mph.

All GTi versions are equipped with Stop/Start and fulfil the emissions standard that takes effect from next year.

With the six speed manual transmission both can return 47.1mpg and the emission figure is 139g/km. Compare this with the previous GTi and there is an eighteen percent improvement in economy.

Of course you can opt for the superb six speed DSG transmission, 44.1mpg and a CO2 figure of 148g/km.

I discovered that the performance pack with the front differential delivers a much more neutral and agile drive and permits higher speeds when cornering.

It will be interesting to see how many buyers will opt for the performance pack; take it from me it is worth every penny.

It would be wrong of me to simply major on the performance capability of this Volkswagen, there is much more to it. Comfort levels are high and it is equipped more akin to an executive car than a performance car, so for your money you are getting the best of both worlds.



Interior highlights include 2Zone climate control, sports seats finished in a very attractive tartan cloth, black roof lining, red ambience lighting, a bespoke steering wheel, trim strips and stainless steel pedal caps.



The standard touch screen infotainment system includes a DAB digital radio, Bluetooth and iPod connectivity.

Safety is paramount and such features as Automatic Post Collision Braking, City Emergency Braking and Automatic Distance Control.

XDS+ is also a standard feature; this operates in all unbraked driving states. This new system improves the agility, reducing the need for steering inputs through targeted braking of the inside wheels on both axles through corners. This system works even in snow.

The exterior of the new GTi is tastefully executed and you will recognise it from the rest of the Golf family.

The version I tried has an insurance group rating of 29E and will set you back £27,480.

Ian Lynas