

The Muscular Chevy Camaro

by Ian Lynas

THE Chevrolet Camaro is a motoring legend and a star of the big screen; you can imagine my delight when I received an invite to get behind the wheel of one.

In its latest guise, built with the European market in mind this American muscle car with its glorious sounding V8 engine may well have limited appeal. But it is cars like this which put a real buzz into motoring.

The thought of 432bhp at the command of your right foot, might be enough to make the faint hearted to have second thoughts.

The big surprise is that the new Camaro is a very pleasant car to drive. Sure it has generous proportions and you have to be ever mindful of that, but it is quite happy to be driven around town, although parking is another issue.

This Chevy is at its best on an open flowing road, there is little to equal the sound of a V8, it never seems stressed as it delivers silky smooth power.

The car has a dedicated cult following of Hollywood A-List stars from actors Brad Pitt and Sylvester Stallone, who have recently been spotted behind the wheel of the latest models, to Pro Skater Josh Kalis and nu metal guitarist Brian Welch from Korn.

There is something timeless about this famous Chevrolet model and now it has come of age; looks wise the styling makes it stand out from the crowd while it has become more sophisticated without loosing that appeal which has made it a firm favourite for so long.

Available in two body styles coupe and convertible, the customer is offered the best of both worlds.

My time behind the wheel was in a coupe version and it comes to market at a whisker under £35,000, a lot of car for the money. Add another £5,000 to your spend and you can enjoy that open top feeling with the convertible.

By the way I had better add the Camaro is only available in left hand drive form. Demand for right hand drive versions would never be high enough to justify the cost of conversion.

Electronic stability control and traction control both come as standard equipment and a Competitive/Sport mode is adjustable for performance driving.

With the six-speed manual transmission, this also includes a Launch Control feature for consistently quick take-offs.



Stopping power is courtesy of large, ventilated disks, clamped by four-piston aluminium Brembo calipers, ensure impressive braking performance.

The front suspension uses a multi-link strut arrangement with a double ball-joint configuration. The unique, 4.5-link independent rear suspension is double-isolated from the chassis for a smoother, quieter driving experience.

Safety features, include dual-stage front airbags, front seat-mounted thorax side airbags and head curtain airbags for front and rear occupants.

For those who like their cars with muscle, this could be just the car.