

The New Aston Martin DB9

by Ian Lynas

Appearing hot on the heels of the all-new Vanquish Super GT, the introduction of the 2013 Model Year DB9 gives the British luxury sports car maker Aston Martin the perfect opportunity to further enrich the appeal of its mainstay in the GT sector, with significant developments affecting styling inside and out, plus key changes under the new DB9's classically beautiful skin.



The styling changes see DB9 adopt an even more lithe, fluid and pure form reminiscent of the outgoing Virage which ceases production with immediate effect. Taking a classic Aston Martin GT silhouette as its base, the new model adds a more pronounced rear boot flip to further enhance the aerodynamic performance of the car.

The exterior design of the DB9 communicates a powerfully assertive yet elegant character. The surfaces display

taught lines and subtle muscular forms that point to the underlying power of this renowned Sports GT.

DB9 sits low and wide, visually planting the car on the road, communicating a clearly athletic stance. The car's inherent width is accentuated by the 'light catcher' feature which runs from the lower front bumper and continues along the sill of the car creating a chiselled, determined look.

Available from launch in either Coupe or Volante body styles, DB9 clearly has a strong breadth of appeal.

Bi-xenon headlamps provide the car with a clear focus, while subtle feature lines run along and underneath the headlamps, visually widening the car.

A large lower front grille feeds air into the standard Carbon Ceramic Braking system, while the front splitter also serves to visually widen the car. For those DB9 buyers in search of an even more sporty appearance there is now a carbon fibre front splitter available as part of the exterior Carbon Pack.

Look a little closer and the true beauty of the DB9's details becomes apparent. The front grille, for instance, inspired by the design of Aston Martin's sold-out One-77 hypercar, features five horizontal vanes which are chamfered to create an aerofoil profile. Meanwhile the bonnet vents are authentic zinc with distinctive vanes. These, along with the new grille and pronounced side strakes, are classic Aston Martin design cues.

Unmistakably Aston Martin, the Sports GT's opulently-appointed interior boasts authentic materials and the highest levels of attention to detail.

For instance, the new car comes with a stunning leather welt feature first seen on Virage. Inspired by luxury leather goods, the welts have been designed and developed by Aston Martin's master craftsmen. Requiring meticulous levels of control to hand stitch and specially-developed manufacturing facilities, the welts are created by

sandwiching a narrow strip of leather between two opposing leather seat panels, and fixed using precise stitching.

A further demonstration of Aston Martin's renowned attention to detail and craftsmanship can be seen in the jewel-like glass switchgear used throughout the interior of the revised DB9. Details such as these glass switches clearly demonstrate the luxury sports car maker's commitment to the use of authentic, high value materials.

This DB9 sees the introduction of the new generation AM11 V12 engine. The new V12 takes some of the Gen4 VH architecture hardware technology developed for Aston Martin's forthcoming all-new super GT, the Vanquish, but has been tuned to suit the character of DB9. The result is an engine with effortless torque of up to 620 Nm and peak power of 517 PS, both significantly improved versus the outgoing unit. As befits a luxury GT in this class it of course features convenience items such as automatic headlights, now operated by a new master switch unit control panel located on the lower instrument panel beneath the driver's side air-vent.

Automatic windscreen wipers are also a standard-fit feature, with their operation triggered by a rain sensor built into the header pod in front of the rear-view mirror. Arch-filling 20-inch alloys wheels in a variety of designs, full-grain leather interior, leather sports steering wheel, electrically adjustable Sports seats with side airbags, memory seats and exterior mirrors, satellite navigation, automatic temperature control, trip computer and Organic Electroluminescent displays.