

The New Peugeot 208 GTi

Many will welcome the news of another GTi from Peugeot, a successor to the 205 GTI, the 208 GTi. Between there have been the 206 and 207 adorned with the GTi badge.

The legendary 205 GTi in many ways delivered raw performance, an enjoyable car to get behind the wheel of. Some may be disappointed with the newcomer as it delivers performance in a more relaxed manner with a mix of high tech and performance wrapped in luxury.

No surprise to learn that it pushes out 25bhp more than the 207 GTi and it is lighter and from a 1.6 litre engine a very useful 200bhp with very smooth delivery.

When I tried the new Peugeot over some terrific roads in North Wales I really had to keep a close eye on the speedo as acceleration is pretty impressive and seamless too, with rest to 62mph in 6.8 seconds.

Weeks prior to my Welsh visit and over the same roads Irish rally driver Craig Breen was given the opportunity to try the 208 GTi and by his reaction on video he came away well pleased.

When he drove the car there was quite an amount of snow on the route, thankfully when I arrive most had disappeared and the only hazard I had to be alert for was wandering sheep.

The six speed manual transmission linked to the power unit is very slick and just simply adds to the driving pleasure and the suspension has been tweaked and the brakes updated.

Road holding as you would expect from the GTi is very reassuring and stopping ability is right in line with the performance at the command of the right foot.

Alright going on about performance and the person who buys the new 208 GTi will have one thing in mind, how it performs. A plus factor is economy and this little rocket can deliver up to a rewarding 48mpg.

The exterior styling has been turned down, it is rather a Q car, but there are little tell tales, the badging, the chunky alloys etc.

The very well appointed interior which has a decidedly sports theme which is well executed.

The colour scheme is red, black and satin chrome and red GTi over stitching throughout.



The sports seats very comfy finished in a combination of full grain Nappa leather and Caro Weave cloth with red line detailing.



The colour theme continues to the dashboard which features a high instrument panel with a colour matrix surrounded by dials back lit in red by LEDs.

A large seven inch screen is standard with easy access to a number of functions, radio, Bluetooth hands free or the ability to play music files via a USB connection or audio streaming.

Packaging is excellent, cruise control, speed control (you might need this one often) and follow me home lighting.

Options include parking assist; a feature which I find is proving very popular right now. The new 208 GTi is a lot of

performance and packaging for a whisker under £19,000.

Ian Lynas