

The SEAT Ibiza Cupra for the Fast Lane

by Ian Lynas

PASSION with German engineering, sounds just about right, well it certainly works with the new SEAT Ibiza Cupra.

This new addition to the SEAT range richly deserves the mantle as flagship of the Ibiza range which went under major revisions in April of last year.

The amazing 1.4 litre engine from the Volkswagen Group is the heart of this little gem with 180PS.

Just in case you already did not know, Cupra is short for Cup Racing.

I tried this newcomer from SEAT in its native country and over roads which wind and twist their way above the city of Barcelona, the Ibiza Cupra came into its own with razor sharp handling.

Ride is on the firmish side and it will be interesting to see how it reacts over our roads in Northern Ireland.

The twin charged engine (turbo and supercharger) and its secret, power throughout the range and rest to 62mph comes up in just 6.9 seconds and if you have access to somewhere like Kirkistown circuit then you could

explore its top speed potential of 142mph.

Standard is the seven speed twin clutch DSG automatic gearbox which is a joy to use and for those who might think that a chunk of excitement is taken away by the word automatic, have no fear there are steering wheel mounted paddles.

Styling is on the sporting theme, both exterior and interior. I was taken by the 17 inch Barcino alloys, the exclusive front and rear bumpers and the large single race-style exhaust. Another touch the wing mirrors are finished gloss black.

The interior and the hip hugging Cupra sports seats provide both comfort and grip.

The overall specification is good, Bi-xenon headlights with adaptive front lighting system, LED daytime running lights and rear lights, automatic headlamps and wipers, ESC, with Emergency Brake Assust, anti-slip regulation and an XDS diff.

Stopping ability is courtesy of a high performance braking system with discs all round and there is the option of an AP Racing brake kit.



Apart from the performance and the sheer fun that this SEAT delivers, there is a practical side to this sporting three door Cupra, the boot capacity varies from 236-882 litres and four adults can travel in comfort.

You can order the Ibiza Cupra now and the cost - £18,750 and an extra £1,000 gets the AP Brake kit.

Worth noting the Cupra name was first used by SEAT back in 1996 on an Ibiza special edition model which commemorated victory for the company in the WRC two litre class.

That car was powered by a two litre 16 valve petrol engine which produced 30PS less than the new Ibiza Cupra and to date there has been a Cupra in either the Ibiza or Leon ranks.

One for the fast lane there is no doubt and resting 15mm lower to the ground this newcomer has a lot of road presence.

