

The Striking Hyundai Veloster

by Ian Lynas

NOW for something different, the new Veloster from Hyundai, a sleek and distinctive compact coupe design, but with a twist, it has an innovative, 1+2 door configuration for easy rear seat access.

It may not be the first to offer such a set up re the doors, but on this car it works and this is a vehicle that combines the style of a coupe with the practicality of a hatchback. A recent exercise to Manchester and the surrounding area to catch up with the latest products from Hyundai afforded the opportunity to get behind the wheel of the Veloster.

The styling of this newcomer is catchy and with my test vehicle in a striking green paint finish certainly caught the eye of other drivers and pedestrians

Veloster is powered by a 1.6-litre four-cylinder GDi petrol engine with 140 PS on tap; this power unit is allied to a six-speed manual gearbox or the optional new dual-clutch transmission (DCT)

Hyundai's Blue Drive technologies, incorporating Intelligent Stop & Go (ISG) and low rolling-resistance tyres, help deliver competitive CO₂ emissions

from 137 g/km and combined fuel economy from 47.9mpg.

Equipment levels are of a high standard and I was impressed with the 7-inch TFT touch screen media centre, which I found to be user friendly.

The striking green paint finish of the Veloster I sampled is not the only colour to grab attention; there are other bold colours to choose from.

The good news on equipment continues with 17-inch alloy wheels, Bluetooth connectivity with voice recognition, climate control air-conditioning, reversing sensors, front and rear fog lights and striking LED daytime running lights.

There is also a stereo RDS radio/CD player with MP3/WMA compatibility and an iPod connection, with the ability to operate all functions using controls on the leather steering wheel for added convenience.



The Sport version adds 18-inch alloy wheels with colour inserts, black leather upholstery with heated front seats, a panoramic glass sunroof with tilt and slide function, cruise control, keyless entry with engine start/stop button and sporty alloy pedals.

The Media Pack is available on the Sport and combines touch screen satellite navigation with a rear view parking camera, premium audio with eight speakers (including a subwoofer), and an upgraded amplifier.

This pack is priced at £1,100, while for an additional £300 red leather seat upholstery and front door trim panels can be specified.

A panoramic sunroof and the option of a red leather interior on the higher Sport trim level really makes this Hyundai stand out from the competition.

Competitive pricing, Hyundai's 5 Year Triple Care package as standard and a class-leading residual value from CAP of 35 per cent, the company expect the Veloster to re-shape the UK's coupe segment and attract new buyers to the brand.

Hyundai believes that Veloster will drive incremental sales for the brand and anticipates that it will attract 20,000 customers annually across Europe, including up to 5,000 in the UK alone.

With precise handling, good performance, the manual version can reach 62mph in 9.7 seconds with the DCT version taking 10.3 seconds and respective top speeds of 125mph and 124mph. the Veloster will have appeal for the younger set.

Pricing is certainly competitive, ranging from £17,995 - £21,745.

Who will buy this striking new Hyundai? It would be easy to say the younger driver; I would prefer to say the young at heart.

