

The New BMW 4 Series Convertible

Convertibles continue to be very popular in our market, in fact more so than in any other country in Europe despite our seemingly ever changing weather. In fact we stand at number three in the world popularity stakes when it comes to convertibles.

The second member of the recently introduced 4 Series BMW range is the Convertible and not only is it an open top when the weather permits but it is also a hard top.

The top takes a mere 20 seconds to operate up or down and can be executed at speeds up to 8mph.

Recently I had the opportunity to take the wheel of this new BMW and one feature which I really appreciated was the air collar, right at the back of your neck you can control the amount of warm air and with the heater turned up you can even venture out on a chilly day in this convertible.

The new model takes over where the successful 3 Series Convertible left off and it offers more space and there are five trim levels to choose from, SE, Sport, Modern, Luxury and M Sport and initially two petrol and one diesel engine

with more power choice to follow.

Power output ranges from 184-306bhp and emission ratings range from 131-190g/km.

Although the new model is a more overtly sporting car than its predecessor, the design of the front end reflects its close family ties with the kidney grille and twin headlights showing it's unmistakably a BMW.

The optional adaptive full-LED twin headlights, with their hexagonal design, combine with the slightly forward-slanting BMW kidney grille to form a strong stylistic statement.

The width of this convertible is accentuated by a large air intake in the front apron below the headlight line.

Even when the retractable hard-top is lowered there is wider access to the luggage compartment and an electro-hydraulic loading assistance system pivots and positions the folded hard top to ensure maximum utilisation of the 220 litres of storage space.

When the top is up the luggage compartment has a volume of 370 litres, 20 litres more than in the 3 Series Convertible. Moreover, with the optional through-loading



system a flat and level storage area can be utilised when the backrest of the rear bench seat is folded down.

The interior blends sporting intent and exclusivity. All of the controls are arranged ergonomically around the driver to provide optimum access to all functions.

A sports steering wheel, circular instruments in black panel look and the controls are arranged ergonomically around the driver to provide optimum access to all functions.

The new design of front seats includes integrated retractable seat belts, unique in this class, as well as being electrically adjustable as standard. Dakota leather upholstery with Sun Reflective technology is standard on all models.

Ian Lynas