

Audi RS5 Cabriolet

By Jim Mc Cauley



If you think that open top motoring is confined to moderately powered compact two-seaters, then think again as Audi has lowered the roof on its elegant and top performing RS5. The RS derivative is now available in soft top guise with its 4.2 litre V8 able to tousle the hair-dos of all four occupants as it rockets from rest to the benchmark 62 mph (100 km/h) in just 4.9 seconds. Sharing the same engine specifications as the similarly badged Coupé and Avant, this 450 PS naturally aspirated petrol unit revs through to 8,250 rpm with its maximum torque of 430 Nm available between 4,000 and 6,000 rpm. Delivering drive to all four wheels via the company's 7-speed S-tronic automatic

transmission, the car offers the performance to match its stunning looks.

Slipping behind the flat bottomed steering wheel, there is no mistaking the Audi quality and with the hood down on a bright summer's day in southern England, only the speed limits cap your enjoyment of the car and you long for longer journeys across continental countries rather than British counties in order to match the car to the roads and distances for which it was designed.

Throttle response is instantaneous with the car always willing to obey the least touch on the throttle and the ride is firm in keeping with the performance nature of the car, welcomed on fast open roads but tending towards uncomfortable on traffic-ridden 'B' roads.





A 'Driver Select' option allows for sharper or more relaxed response than the mid-range default setting while the optional 'Dynamic Ride Control' on the test car also provides the opportunity to firm the suspension.

With the hood up or down, engine and exhaust notes from the twin oval pipes add to the thrill with the triple lined hood providing almost as good insulation as a hard top right up to motorway speeds.

A lowered stance and drawn-out wings covering the 20-inch alloys complement the flowing waist line on the car and with unique RS bumpers front and rear there is no mistaking the fact that this is a cabriolet with serious performance intentions.

As far as running costs are concerned, the RS5 Cabrio has an official combined fuel consumption of 26.4 mpg and with a CO2 emissions of 249 gms/km is in Band L for annual road tax. The model is listed at £68,000 with the 20-inch wheels on the test car in lieu of the standard 19-inch rims adding £1,350 and Dynamic Ride Control adding a further £1,710.