

## Volkswagen Golf R

The GTI badge on the rear hatch of the Volkswagen Golf has met its match on a model that carries just a simple 'R' on the tailgate. Developed by Volkswagen's special projects wing, the new Golf 'R' builds on the technology of the Mark IV and Mark V R32 models to produce the most powerful and fastest accelerating version ever.



Clearly a Golf, but significantly different in much of its detailing, the variant which carries the ultimate performance badge produces 270PS from its 4-cylinder engine, and outputs its power to all four wheels via a 6-speed manual gearbox. 0-62 mph takes just 5.7 seconds and top speed is limited to 155 mph.

While it builds on the strengths of the R32, it also eliminates its main weakness – rock solid suspension – and the new model provides just enough ‘give’ to enable it to be used and enjoyed as everyday transport, without compromising its cornering abilities. Unlike the rawness of the output from the previous 3.2 litre V6, delivery from the lighter but more powerful 4-cylinder permits the driver to release the power at will rather than continually sedating an overly enthusiastic rev climb. A performance joy, but at a price where there is a lot of choice - £30,345.