



FROM NORFOLK WITH LOVE

Every young boy goes through a stage of liking flash cars... Motoring writer Tim Barnes-Clay just didn't grow out of it!



By **Tim Barnes-Clay**
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Much of my car addiction could be down to growing up in Norwich, only a few miles from the Lotus headquarters in Hethel, where THE Bond car of the seventies – the Lotus Esprit S1 – was made. The nearest I ever got to seeing my 'The Spy Who Loved Me' dream car was on a sponsored cycle ride around the Lotus test track for the cubs. That seemed enough for me at the time, and I soaked up the atmosphere of that windswept former airfield as though I was somehow connected to Roger Moore and his 1977 getaway vehicle with 'underwater' gadgetry. I was



still giddy from excitement a few years later when the new Turbo Esprit featured in the 1981 film 'For Your Eyes Only'.

So, you can imagine my reaction when, after months of pestering from me, Lotus rang to see if I'd like to test drive their new Evora 2+2. And guess what... The model I was being offered was in white – just like the dream car I'd first clapped eyes on at the Norwich Odeon! To say I was excited would be an understatement.

Having been shown around the Lotus factory and witnessing Evoras being skilfully and lovingly put together by local people rather than robots, I was more than itching to get behind the wheel.

And I was hooked from the moment I set eyes on it.

Once inside the Lotus Evora 2+2, you soon realise that the world's only mid-engined four-seater is just as dramatic as its gratifyingly styled exterior. The front leather seats are very comfortable, and touch-sensitive switchgear abound. You'd struggle to get all but the tiniest of baby seats to fit the minuscule rear bench, but, fair play to Lotus, it's a useful storage area and trimmed in black leather



as standard, which gives the illusion that it's only a two-seater. The boot is even decent enough to fit in two sets of golf clubs. Brilliant!

One of the first things I noticed was how well it rides. The 3.5-litre V6 lump is tame in town, but it's hard to mask the rich throaty burble of the power waiting to be unleashed. Hit the open roads, and the Toyota-sourced powerplant simply pins you in your seat. The 5.1-second 0-62mph time blows you away, yet the Lotus still feels cool, calm and collected. The car's brakes took me by surprise – they scrub off speed in the blink of an eye and yet the Evora is totally stable under heavy braking.

As well as the ability to turn heads, the combined cycle fuel economy figure of 32.5mpg is also something to be admired. In a day's drive from Norwich via Lincolnshire to Northamptonshire, I got about 28 mpg – not bad considering I played about a little on the 100-mile journey.

The Norfolk-based company has done an amazing job on this car. It's utterly exciting to drive, it draws looks wherever it goes, it feels safe, and it's an extraordinarily competent all-rounder. Group Lotus has totally fulfilled my boyhood dreams in letting me drive this beautiful work of art.



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LOTUS Evora S IPS



Price: **£71,995**
Mileage: **Delivery Miles**
Transmission: **Manual**
Engine Capacity: **3456cc**
Body Style: **2-Door Coupe**
Fuel: **Petrol**

A brand new, latest specification Evora S with the IPS (Intelligent Precision Shift) paddle actuated gear selection. Finished in the new Premium colour of Amethyst Grey with the following specification.. Premium Pack Sport - featuring Ebony Black leather with suedetex seat inserts and contrasting stitching in red. Tech Pack - with the new Panasonic radio/CD, MP3, satnav system Sport Pack - with enhanced noise.! Reversing camera Heated seats. The 2012 model year Evora features many other enhancements including red brake calipers, dark roof lining and dashboard inserts, as well as over 100 mechanical and cosmetic upgrades. For detailed information relating to this vehicle, please contact Guy Munday, Lotus Sales Manager. Please call 07983 716487 outside usual office hours. We also have a selection of 2011 model year IPS vehicles available at preferential prices. Please call for details.

LOTUS Evora S 2012 MODEL YEAR



Price: **£62,995**
Mileage: **4,700 Miles**
Transmission: **Manual**
Engine Capacity: **3456cc**
Body Style: **2-Door Coupe**
Fuel: **Petrol**

A full specification, 2012 model year Evora S with a manual gearbox. Finished in the new Premium colour of Frost Blue with the following specification.. Premium Pack Sport - featuring Ebony Black leather with perforated seat inserts and contrasting stitching in red. accent lighting. Tech Pack - with the new Panasonic radio/CD, MP3, satnav system. 2 x 50w amplifier, Bluetooth connectivity, tyre pressure monitoring, cruise control, rear parking sensors. Sport Pack - with enhanced noise.! also providing sharper throttle response, increased RPM limit, sports traction control setting, cross drilled brakes, oil cooler. Reversing camera. Heated seats. The 2012 model year Evora features many other enhancements including red brake calipers, dark roof lining and dashboard inserts, as well as over 100 mechanical and cosmetic upgrades. For detailed information relating to this vehicle, please contact Guy Munday, Lotus Sales Manager. Please call 07983 716487 outside usual office hours. This car was initially used by Lotus Cars as a member of their press fleet before being sold to a very good friend of Stratton Motor Company. Offering a huge saving on list price!

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