

Maserati

GRANTURISMO S



Motoring expert Tim Barnes-Clay takes a tour of the town in the GranTurismo S, the Italian stallion from Maserati

It is not every day that you get people stopping and staring at you when you go for a quick drive into town. But that is exactly what happens if you are sitting behind the wheel of Maserati's GranTurismo S.

It's not all about appearance though. It is probably more to do with the noise the muscle car makes. It is so raucous that when the S was delivered to me I heard the deep throaty

V8 rumble before I saw it. The vibrations the engine gives out creates a great sound – a wild noise – an almost addictive racket. All I know is that I never wanted to turn the music system on; I just wanted to drive and listen to the crackling, thundering tune played out by the Italian monster.

The GranTurismo S features a 4.7 V8 engine which develops 434bhp at 7000 rpm. The car is

immediately recognisable as something special; on the outside the Maserati is distinguished by a number of aesthetic nips and tucks that, although discrete, are highly effective and serve to make the car body appear even sportier without abandoning the sleekness of the lines masterfully designed by Pininfarina. The integrated spoiler-in-the-boot-lid and side skirts help to improve the flows around



the car. On top of that, the S boasts specially designed 20 inch rims, which resemble the Trident, Maserati's symbol. The sporty look is complemented by the generously proportioned

“Vehicle roll is barely noticeable as a result of Maserati's modified springs, bars and dampers, and this has benefited handling and performance.”

oval-section exhaust tailpipes. The radiator grille and headlight casings are black, while the Trident on the grille and the oval badge below the hood are embossed in red, in true Maserati racing tradition.

Looking through the spokes of the 20 inch rims you can see the high-performance brake technology developed in collaboration with Brembo. The system features front brake discs made with a dual casting of cast iron and aluminium, paired with aluminium mono-bloc six-piston brake callipers. This equipment,



introduced for the first time in the automotive field on the Maserati Quattroporte Sport GT S, optimises the braking system's performance, by emphasising pedal feel and increasing fatigue-resistance in the most extreme conditions.

Inside, the S is upholstered in Poltrona Frau leather and Alcantara, used for the steering wheel and centre of the seat with the option to extend to the whole of the headlining, to reflect the sporty flair of the Maserati. Of course, if you want to share the plush cabin with some passengers the GranTurismo is a

genuine four-seat coupe. The front seats glide forward automatically, allowing easy access to the back. On the entertainment side of things first-class equipment increases the on board pleasure for the driver and the passengers, thanks to the Bluetooth technology, offered as standard, and the iPod interface, available upon request, which completes the Maserati Multi Media System.

Behind the wheel of the GranTurismo S is a very special place to be indeed. Once you push the first gear button, or select it using

