

Purring with



Approval

Ian Lamming gets his claws into the latest offering from Peugeot

SOME cars aren't what they seem, they are even better and Peugeot's latest SUV is no exception.

Time and time again, I find myself being impressed, really impressed, by the Peugeot range and the new 2008 is the latest to make its mark.

Bolder vertical grille, lion paw 3D rear lights and feline lines should get the buying public purring with approval.

Smart 18in alloys, roof bars and protective plastic body mouldings give the SUV a rough and tough appeal.

But the S in SUV really does stand for sports thanks to the staggeringly good PureTech engine.

This is the part where cars aren't what they seem. On paper this is a 1.2 litre three-cylinder motor, right? So that must be built for lukewarm performance but great economy – wrong!

Ask the driver of the brand new Porsche Cayenne on my tail as we pulled on to the A66. The swift Porsche disappeared in the rear view mirror as the 2008 sped away. Stung by such indignity it did

eventually catch up but not before we all wondered what the heck had just happened.

PureTech may have a modest capacity and limited cylinders but it somehow manages to eek out 130BHP thanks to a very efficient turbocharger. It's a miracle motor and exhilarating to drive thanks to the growly off-beat nature that triples tend to exude.

But glance at the trip computer and you would swear you must be driving a diesel for the miles per gallon figures will be rattling around the 60 mark.

Sporty extends inside to the supportive seats, the great head high clocks, the carbon-look materials and touch screen infotainment centre. It is also very nice, pleasing on the eye, intuitive and easy to use.

This particular SUV is only front wheel drive but it mimics an off-roader using Grip Control, an electronic traction device which you can dial in depending on whether conditions are for ice, snow, mud or sand.

New 2008 isn't necessarily what it seems, it's even better thanks to class leading technology, great new looks and that stunning PureTech motor.

Fact File

- Peugeot 2008 1.2 PureTech 130
- Engine: 1.2 three-cylinder turbo-charged petrol
- Power: 130hp
- 0-62mph 9.3 secs
- Top speed: 124mph
- Combined MPG: 58.9
- Transmission: six-speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 110