

What's not to Love?

Ian Lamming drives the latest VW Touran

WHY would you fit a people carrier with a sport button? Answer? Because you can.

Do not be fooled by the utilitarian look of the VW Touran. Yes, it is a people carrier that can carry seven, but there is nothing sedentary about this particular MPV.

Being an MPV it is supremely practical. The seats sit high offering stunning views above walls and hedges. There is room a plenty for limbs and luggage and there is every touch screen, Bluetooth function that modern gadget-hungry consumers insist in their vehicles nowadays.

But it remains a driver's car, even in normal mode, but even more so if you press the sport button.

The strong 150PS diesel springs to life and calls in reinforcement from the simply stunning six-speed DSG gearbox, which remains the best on the market, with its F1-style changes.

What was designed as a bus now goes all gangster with sharp responses, poise and composure. It just loves to be driven and I for one

loved driving it.

R-Line looks the part too, definitely smarter and sportier thanks to the larger 18in alloys, a diffuser look to the rear bumper, body-coloured sideskirts and unique grille.

Halogen clear lights are flanked with LED running lamps and the panoramic sunroof lets the natural light flood into the cabin.

New Touran is better than ever. It bristles with the latest tech – you can even Bluetooth Go pro cameras to the touchscreen so you can see what's happening in the back without cricking your neck – or amplify your voice through the infotainment centre so the rear passengers can hang on your every word. Hook up your smart phone and the same display appears on the dash's touch screen.

It is also longer, wider and has more interior space that is cleverly used to the full. The third row of seats drop into the load bay floor leaving a cavernous space for the bulky stuff – and it has a sports button .

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Fact File

- VW Touran R-Line 2.0 TDI 150PS six-speed DSG
- Engine: 2.0 diesel
- Power: 150PS
- 0-62mph: 9.3 secs
- Top speed: 128mph
- Combined MPG: 58.9
- Transmission: six-speed DSG
- CO2 g/km: 126

