

Pure Power

Ian Lamming drives the Peugeot 208 Orange Power PureTech 110 Auto

TO be honest I had heard it was good, that's why I asked for one and I wasn't even bothered about the body that encased a new engine storming on to the market.

Peugeot's new 1.2 litre three cylinder comes with or without a turbo but if you opt for the more powerful option it is even more astounding.

The turbo will spin up to 240,000rpm, which is difficult to get your head around. What makes more sense is the way this stunning power plant delivers its performance.

Coupled to a very fast changing six-speed auto, this thing flies and it does so in a most infectious and characterful fashion.

Under the bonnet of a new-look and very smart 208, it's like a whippet out of the trap and the added bonus is a glorious off-beat tone from the odd cylinder arrangement. It's irresistible.

It has so much torque that it will romp by anything slow moving with aplomb and climb steep hills without so much as a by your leave. It is fun without being frenetic; it is fast while remaining frugal. It is an absolute fire-cracker.

The new 208 is a worthy partner too. Great looks with sharper front and super proportions make the small hatch a real eye-catcher, especially if you plump for Orange Power, which comes with black alloys with a streak of tangerine.

Superb ride and handling make it an involving drive helped further by a tiny sports steering wheel that is chunky and flat bottomed for maximum effect.

The dash is unusual and brilliantly designed.

Touch screen makes it nice and modern and the clocks are fabulous. It is a great interior with some well-chosen fabrics and trim, excellent use of space and a usable boot.

But thoughts have to return to that engine, it's a peach of a motor. I've always loved three cylinders, even better if they are aided by a turbo and the latest offering from Peugeot must rank as one of the best out there.

It is powerful with an alluring nature and a superb gearbox making the 208 one of the best drives around.

Fact File

Peugeot 208
Orange Power
PureTech 110
Auto
Engine: 1.2 litre
turbo petrol three
cylinder
Power: 110BHP
0-62mph: 9.8 secs
Top speed:
121mph
Combined miles
per gallon: 62.8
Transmission: six-
speed auto

