

Party On!

*Motor
Madness*

Ian Lamming examines Seat's new Ibiza, a car ready to celebrate another milestone

DO you remember Ibiza? A little hatchback that was always up for a foam party.

Cheap and cheerful, powered by shots and popular with the youth of today, or at least yesterday.

Believe it or not, that was 30 years ago and the Seat Ibiza is just being launched again in its fifth guise.

The spiritual move from Ibiza to Barcelona sees the new model grow up, become more sophisticated, age gracefully. So Ibiza is now more rioja than Sambuca, tapas than burger and it can't fail to impress.

A brand new platform offers impressive levels of handling, quality, refinement and technology. It is more spacious with greater stability and a more dynamic charm set to inspire driving pleasure.

Sharper lines are supported by a much

improved interior featuring an eight inch touchscreen and build quality that will leave occupants thinking they are in something much more higher end.

The fifth generation Ibiza is more robust and more spacious. In addition to being 87mm wider, with 24mm more headroom in the front seats, it has 35mm more legroom in the rear seats. It doesn't sound much but it is, offering much greater volume for driver and passengers alike.

Increased dynamism means Ibiza will be as enjoyable to drive in town as it is on the open road, whether that's the monotony of the motorway or excitement of our A roads.

A range of engines employs new technology to maximize performance, improve economy and do their bit for the environment.

The largest boot of its segment, with a volume

of 35 litres, is 63litres more than the previous generation and reflects the paraphernalia most families now carry in the pursuit of work and pleasure.

For the first time the Ibiza features an eight inch integrated touchscreen with the latest technology in terms of connectivity. In the interior a further development is the wireless charger with GSM signal amplifier, a real boon in our neck of the dark woods.

Drivers can expect more useful assistance, normally the preserve of the upper classes, such as front assist, traffic jam assist and ACC adaptive cruise control, among others.

It all points to new Ibiza being the most grown up and sophisticated yet. But don't think this means it won't be still up for a bit of a do, just that it will be less of a rave, more of a ball in the future.

