

Experience the



Drive

by Ian Lamming

Fact File

Alfa Romeo

Giulietta 1.4 TB

MultiAir Sportiva

Nav

Engine: 1.4 petrol
turbo

Power: 170BHP

0-62mph: 7.6

Top speed: 135mph

Combined miles per
gallon: 49.6

Transmission: six
speed manual

CO2 g/km: 131

IT'S a rare occurrence, a top teacher being doused in freezing cold water for charity and several hundred children watch in wonder – well sort of.

They are there, just yards from the action, but none of them are actually looking directly at the trial. Without exception they are viewing the spectacle through their smart phones; that's 21st century life for you.

And this technological detachment is fast extending to the motoring world. Many cars are so advanced, so sophisticated, so hi-tech, that they seem to make the driving experience a virtual reality.

It's as if motoring has become nothing more than a game projected onto the windscreen; we could be sitting on the sofa in front of the tele.

And in many ways this is to be lauded as it makes driving safely easier than ever. But it also cossets to the point of sterility anaesthetizing your senses from everything that makes driving worthwhile.

Some cars but not all and, thankfully, Alfa Romeo has a different view. Bless them, but their designers are there to stimulate the senses, excite, thrill and this is achieved with aplomb in the Giulietta.

Firstly, it looks stylish, designer, every bit Italian and that flair extends inside to produce a simply fine and splendid interior with hooded clocks, glorious dash and myriad sporty

design cues.

Dial in exquisite sports seats, a gloriously crisp engine and exhaust note and rapier sharpness in the crucial area of handling and this is a car that goes way beyond the competition.

The 1.4 litre petrol wallops out 170BHP thanks to the boost from the turbo making Giulietta a spirited and able companion and the sweet handling and tenacious grip is more than a match for the stunning performance. On the road it is a joy to drive.

Curvaceous lines and massive dark titanium alloys catch the eye and the Alfa badge, with decades of sporting heritage, leaves you feeling proud of the association.

People look on with envy and know that you are a discerning driver with impeccable taste. Few countries can do this better than Italy.

Giulietta is proof that life is for living, for experiencing in the raw, not through the over complicated techno-obsessed machinations that are insulating the life out of modern motoring.