

# Worth the hype

Boasting hundreds of horsepower, million-dollar price tags and top speeds that can make a supercar blush, the world's best hypercars are in a breed of their own. Here, **Guy Bird** looks at the coolest and quickest cars that money can buy (if they're not already sold out)



Having hit the tarmac over the last half-decade or so, road-legal hypercars leave traditional supercars like the Ferrari F430 or the Aston Martin DBS in the dust, with top speeds of over 200 miles-per-hour a prerequisite for admittance into this exclusive high-speed club. Hypercars are also way more expensive than their supercar ancestors, with prices edging towards seven digits rather than six. And as you'll seldom be able to achieve those top speeds on the road, your million-dollar-plus motor better look incredible, feel amazing to drive, and feature some serious technology to counter any jokers trying to Top Trump you at the private members' club.

To grab a seat in one of these cars, though, be sure to move

fast, as demand is high, and the six hypercars detailed below are available in limited quantities.

## McLAREN P1

Like Ferrari, British brand McLaren handily also owns an F1 team, which aids the transfer of motorsport technology to its road cars. The 727bhp P1 model represents its high watermark. Exposed carbon fibre, cool but highly functional aerodynamic scoops and vents, and an F1-style rear wing that can swivel through 29 degrees to keep its tail to the tarmac are all part of the package. Less showy than a Ferrari or Lamborghini, this is a hypercar for tech aficionados who appreciate stealth with their speed.

**0-62mph: 2.9secs Top speed: 217mph Price: US\$1.15m**

**Exclusivity: 1 of 375**

**Bonus fact:** 35 examples of an even quicker GTR version (0-62mph in 2.4secs like the Chiron) were offered to existing P1 owners for US\$2.5m.

## FERRARI LAFERRARI

"It's the greatest transfer between F1 and a road car we ever did," says Ferrari's technical director Roberto Fedeli of the LaFerrari. It's the first road-going Ferrari to use F1 KERS technology (Kinetic Energy Recovery System), which collects and stores unused energy from the engine to re-use for short power boosts. With a full carbon fibre chassis making it 27% stiffer than the Enzo it replaces, and an in-house design that looks way more curvaceous, the LaFerrari's combined 950bhp

ensures beautifully fast progress. A convertible version – called Aperta – made its official debut at the September 2016 Paris motorshow although Ferrari says they're all sold too. Darn.

**0-62mph: 2.9sec Top speed: 217mph Price: US\$1.5m**

**Exclusivity: 1 of 499\***  
**Bonus fact:** The original production run of the hardtop Berlinetta version was limited to 499 but Ferrari has just decided to build a 500th to be sold to benefit those affected by the August 2016 earthquake in central Italy. Fair play.

## PORSCHE 918

Compared to the other hypercars here, the Porsche 918 is far less rare. Blame its name, or the German brand's bosses,

who decided to make the same number of vehicles as its model designation (918). Nonetheless, you're unlikely to bump into one of the other 917 owners unless you spend all week at Pebble Beach, and the svelte two-seater

is still the pinnacle of all Porsche's current know-how. The 876bhp car has a slightly eco aspect too. Its twin electric motors assist the V8 engine to a blisteringly quick 2.6-second 0-62mph time but it still posts a frankly incredible official 94mpg and 72g/km of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Drive enthusiastically, though – which is the point of such a car – and real-world economy will plummet.

**0-62mph: 2.6sec Top speed: 214mph Price: US\$950k**

**Exclusivity: 1 of 918**

**Bonus fact:** Able to drive up to 18 miles in pure electric mode (if you want).

## KOENIGSEGG REGERA

Sweden's most famous car brand is Volvo, while its sexiest was the sadly departed Saab. But there is another. Formed in 1994, Koenigsegg has been quietly making balls-out-rapid supercars since the early 2000s. The new Regera – meaning "to reign" in Swedish – is not the out-and-out fastest model in its line-up – that honour goes to

the 269mph Agera (and its even faster variants). However, the Regera is designed to be the most complete all-rounder – not just a track day-biased special but one with a few more creature comforts that is easier to spend time with. It offers the equivalent of more than 1500bhp from its 5.0 V8 and triple electric motor power set-up along with some aesthetic treats, like its starry headlights, courtesy of a bunch of LEDs sprinkled liberally inside the lamp unit to create a constellation effect. Subtle and swift.

**0-62mph: 2.8sec Top speed: 255mph Price: US\$2m**

**Exclusivity: 1 of 80**

**Bonus fact:** Not all of the 80 have yet been sold. Move fast! ▶

**Pictured: The McLaren P1 (left, main), which boasts 727bhp and a US\$1.15m price tag; the Ferrari LaFerrari (above), which costs US\$1.5m and tops out at 217mph; and the Porsche 918 (left), which can reach 62mph in just 2.6 seconds and will set you back US\$950k**



#### LAMBORGHINI AVENTADOR

The Aventador is the oldest of this crop of cars – originally launched in 2011 – and is more of a supercar than a hypercar. But the Aventador is still included in this list because, despite its age and greater ubiquity, its brutal beauty – accentuated by the bright colours that so suit the car – is still guaranteed to turn heads anywhere in the world. A brilliantly angular design to start with, in hardtop or roadster guise, it's impossible to ignore. The newer 2015 SV version is the one to go for, offering 740bhp from the epic-sounding V12.

**0-62mph: 2.8sec Top speed:**

**217mph Price: US\$425k**

**Exclusivity: 1 of 5,000+**

**Bonus fact:** SV stands for 'Super Veloce', which in Italian, appropriately means 'Super Fast'.

#### BUGATTI CHIRON

The latest addition to the hypercar club is the Chiron, unveiled at the 2016 Geneva motorshow. With its elegantly C-shaped roof-to-floor side feature line and curvier surfacing, it gently harks back



to classic Bugatti designs in a way that the Veyron, its blunt-if-effective predecessor, could never achieve. Having 1,479bhp to play with, 260mph is no problem, although this figure is limited by the manufacturer for road safety reasons (the brand's chief engineer is set to attempt a new speed record of 279mph on a private proving ground later in 2016). As such, the Chiron is the current pick of the crop, as respected global magazine *CAR* – one of the few to have even had a passenger ride in one – attests: "The Chiron is not even on the same planet as the other hypercars, and this list would include LaFerrari and McLaren P1. It is all about extreme speed."

**0-62mph: 2.4sec Top speed:**

**260mph (limited) Price: US\$2.5m**

**Exclusivity: 1 of 500**

**Bonus fact:** One sheikh has already bought six. ■

**Pictured:** Only 80 Koenigsegg Regera (top) have been built; the Lamborghini Aventador (middle) is sure to turn heads; the 1,479bhp Bugatti Chiron (left) is limited to 260mph