



Fast and famous

The latest top-of-the-range supercars have a lot in common, writes James Roberts; incredible performance, break-neck top speeds and hefty price tags. Which would you choose to drive?

ASTON MARTIN VALKYRIE

The eagerly-awaited Aston Martin Valkyrie is the closest you'll get to driving a Formula 1 car on the road. Developed in conjunction with Red Bull Racing Advanced Technologies – and overseen by legendary F1 car designer Adrian Newey – the Valkyrie is inspired by F1 engineering. For example there is not a single steel component in the whole structure; its exceptionally lightweight design is thanks to an all carbon fibre make-up. And inside the cockpit,

there is an F1-spec steering wheel with central dash screen.

With its extreme styling to generate downforce through ground effect aerodynamics, the Valkyrie is a lean and mean-looking machine. But the most impressive aspect is the awesome power from the bespoke Cosworth hybrid engine. The power unit is a normally aspirated V12 that screams to 10,500rpm and delivers an incredible 1,160bhp, with the electric hybrid element producing 160bhp of that output.

The performance figures are jaw-dropping: 0-60mph in 2.5 seconds and a top speed of 250mph. Just 150 will be made at a price tag of \$3.28m (€2.97m). astonmartin.com

FERRARI 296 GTB

On the outskirts of the little Italian town of Maranello is a 1.8-mile circuit, known as Fiorano. This is where new Ferraris are wheeled straight out of the factory and track-tested for the first time. With a large enough cheque book,

you can own a high-performance specification of the new Ferrari 296 GTB, that pays homage to this fabled test track.

The 'Assetto Fiorano' version of the 296 GTB is super lightweight and features a set-up that includes GT-racing suspension and improved aerodynamics, taking the price tag from \$300k to \$400k (€275k to €350k). But if you're happy with the standard model, the performance of the beautiful 296 GTB is still impressive. The 2.9-litre V6 twin turbo produces 840hp and is capable of 0-60mph in 2.9 seconds. The top speed is 205mph. ➤

Above: Aston Martin Valkyrie boasts a lightweight carbon fibre construction, and F1 engineering and aerodynamics



The sleek, uncluttered design of Ferrari's latest Supercar features a plug-in hybrid electric motor inspired by the power unit technology of the Scuderia's Formula 1 cars. There's even a speedometer on the passenger side of the car, so your co-pilot can tell you to slow down. ferrari.com

LAMBORGHINI AVENTADOR ULTIMA

Since its launch in 2011, more than 10,000 Aventadors have been delivered to customers, but Lamborghini have revealed this will be the end of the road for this iconic supercar. The Ultimae will be their last-ever naturally aspirated V12 production car and will feature all the best qualities of the previous generations of Aventador. The complex, but

Above: A Ferrari 296 GTB during the Ferrari Finali Mondiali Show at Mugello Circuit in November 2021, celebrating the end of the Corse Clienti racing season
Right: Red Honda Acura NSX Type S sports car during the 133rd Rose Parade

elegant styling is more subtle than the previous SVJ model, but has greater performance figures.

The souped-up 6.5-litre V12 produces 780hp so the Italian rocketship will now accelerate from 0-60mph in 2.8 seconds. That familiar exhaust bark will continue to howl as you rip through the seven-speed gearbox to reach an eye-watering top speed of 220mph.

To increase the exclusivity of this special machine, production of the Aventador LP780-4 Ultimae will be limited to 350 roadsters and 250 coupes at a cost of \$475k and \$525k (€430k and €475k) respectively. lamborghini.com

ACURA NSX TYPE S

Similar to the Ultimae, the new Type S will be the last edition of

the Acura NSX hybrid V6 supercar. Honda will build a limited number of models under its Acura badge (for the American market) with 300 of the 350 only available to buy in the United States.

The Type S has undergone significant styling, with a more angular and aggressive-looking front end, including larger air intakes underneath the trademark Acura Jewel Eye LED headlights.

Throughout the car, there is extensive use of carbon fibre, from the downforce-inducing rear spoiler, diffuser and even roof which marries together seamlessly with a superhero stealth-like Gotham grey matte paint.

In addition to the pretty five-spoke wheels and bright red brake callipers, there are power upgrades underneath the hood too. The 3.5-litre twin-turbo V6 hybrid now offers 592hp thanks to new fuel injectors, intercoolers and turbochargers taken from the NSX GT3 race car.

The starting price is \$150k (€165k) before deciding upon all the incredible upgrades available. acura.com ■

