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Mercedes-Benz C 63 AMG Coupé Black Series



Before the Mercedes-Benz C63 AMG Coupé has even made its showroom debut, the Stuttgart firm has announced an angrier version with 509bhp, named the Black Series. With a 58bhp increase over the normal C63, the Black Series not only shaves 0.1 seconds off the 0-62mph sprint time, but also becomes the most powerful C-Class ever.

The generous capacity of the 6.2-litre V8 provides a torque figure of 457lb ft to complement its 509bhp but, contrary to market trends, the power hike is not due to adding forced induction. In addition to a new engine control unit, engine components from the flagship SLS AMG sports car are used, including the crankshaft, pistons and connecting rods. The intentions of the car are highlighted inside with race-style bucket seats and red seatbelts, and the rear seats are absent by default, unless specified by the customer.

Power is put through the rear wheels via a seven-speed, dual-clutch gearbox. The 'Speedshift' unit has double-declutching and launch control functions, and can swap cogs in under 100 milliseconds (in the fastest of its four control settings). A limited-slip differential sits on the rear axle to improve handling and grip, and is controlled by an ESP system with three settings - one of which turns the system off completely. The ABS system has been completely retuned, and larger disc brakes are fitted - 390mm at the front and 360mm at the rear.

The new coil-over suspension technology is derived from motorsport technology. According to Mercedes, it "offers numerous setting options, and allows the driver to create their own personal set-up". In addition to stiffer anti-roll bars, the standard C63's track has been widened by 40mm at the front and 79mm at the rear - which gives the Black Series a more aggressive stance due to the now-necessary swollen wheel arches. Other visual cues include a new front bumper with splitter and a new rear bumper with diffuser, as well as sideskirts and boot lip spoiler. Vents in the bonnet and around the wheel arches improve cooling.

The optional Track Package includes 'flics' (aerodynamic inserts on the front bumper), a front splitter and an adjustable rear spoiler, all made from carbonfibre. The package also includes track-focused Dunlop tyres designed specifically for the C63 Black Series, and a cooling system for the rear differential to allow it to withstand sustained abuse.



The C63 AMG Coupé Black Series will go on sale in Spring 2012, with an estimated price tag starting at around £100,000.

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