

# CLASSIC DRIVER

## The New Mercedes-Benz CLC



**Following the introduction of the new C-Class saloon and estate last year, the Stuttgart manufacturer has announced a three-door hatchback to replace the old Sports Coupé, a model considered to be “one of the most successful models in the Mercedes strategic product initiative”.**

What Mercedes means by this is that the small car in the ‘super Golf’ class (that includes the A3 and BMW 1-Series) is likely to appeal to a more youthful market that can then be converted to long-term Mercedes ownership. The company proudly states that “over 40 per cent of buyers opted for a larger Mercedes model after the Sports Coupé and are currently driving an E-Class, CLK or an SLK”.

While retaining the old car’s running platform, roof, rear wings and doors, the CLC nonetheless features 1100 component changes, including a new ‘direct-steer system’ of speed-sensitive power steering, with a variable rack ratio which changes as a function of the steering angle.

There’s also a state-of-the-art 'infotainment' system featuring a colour display, Europe-wide DVD or hard-disc navigation and media interface, as well as an uprated four-cylinder engine that now develops 181bhp.



The full engine line-up is four four-cylinder and two six-cylinder engines with power outputs ranging from 120bhp to 268bhp. Fuel consumption has been reduced by up to 10.8 per cent compared with the outgoing model.

A six-speed manual transmission is standard while Mercedes-Benz can also supply a five-speed automatic for the four-cylinder units, and the 7G-TRONIC seven-speed automatic for the V6s.

Visually, the revised car has the front grille and bumper treatment from the latest C-Class (with overtones of CL), while at the rear a redesigned large tailgate, new tail-lights, a long row of LEDs which make up the third brake light unit, and a new rear bumper give the car a different stance from the outgoing model.



As always, an extensive options list offers extras such as 18-inch light-alloy wheels, wider tyres, headlamps with black inner surrounds, sports and lowered suspension, leather sports steering wheel and dark, brushed aluminium trim.

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