

CLASSIC DRIVER

Bentley Azure T



When the going gets tough, Bentley jauntily defies the gloom and launches an upgraded, higher-performance model of the Azure, the marque's fabulously luxurious open-topped four-seater. What a breath of fresh air, both literally and metaphorically, to welcome an extravagant new convertible as an antidote to all the dreary heralds of doom.

Now with 500bhp, the new Azure T uses its twin-turbocharged engine to propel its almost-three-tonne body to 60mph in just 5.2 seconds, and on to a top speed of 179mph. Along with that extra 50bhp, the 6¾-litre V8 powerhouse produces 1000 Nm of torque – a 14 per cent increase over its 875Nm Azure stable-mate, transmitted to the wheels via the same six-speed ZF automatic gearbox.





The exhilarating performance combines with Bentley's characteristic 'T' styling cues to give an even sleeker, sportier look. There are 20-inch 5-spoke wheels and tyres, 'Le Mans' front wing vents, a dark tint matrix grille and a sculpted, retractable Flying 'B' mascot.





Inside the lavishly leather-swathed and wood-trimmed cabin, there is diamond quilting to the seats and door panels, drilled alloy pedals, embroidered Bentley emblems and the option of an outstanding audio system. 'Naim for Bentley' features 10 speakers, a dual channel sub-woofer and an 1100W amplifier, plus eight individual DSP (Digital Signal Processor) modes which mean that, even if you never go anywhere, you could sit happily in your Azure T and wallow in a 'live' concert-like experience.

Says Stuart McCullough of Bentley, "The new Azure T reflects our passion for creating the world's most exhilarating and prestigious convertibles that blend sophistication with a powerful presence." Long may this spirit continue.

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Photos: Bentley

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