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New Audi A8 3.0 Multitronic announced for the UK



This month Audi has yet again proved deserving of its reputation for *Vorsprung durch Technik* with the launch of the new A8 3.0 multitronic, the first ever luxury saloon to benefit from the major gains in performance, fuel economy and emissions offered by step-less CVT transmission. This exceptional new lead-in model for the A8 range has just opened for UK ordering in standard and long-wheelbase forms with OTR prices of £46,105 and £49,475. First customer deliveries are expected in February 2004.

The new A8 3.0 models are powered by a sophisticated lightweight alloy-block V6 petrol engine offering 220PS at 6,300rpm and a maximum 300Nm of torque at 3,200rpm. They are capable of accelerating to 62mph in an impressive 7.9 seconds and, where permissible, reaching a top speed of 150mph.

The new six-cylinder, front-wheel-driven A8s will be joined early in 2004 by a six-cylinder 3.0 TDI quattro model, which will be notable as the world's first D-segment diesel saloon to meet the tougher EU4 emissions regulations applicable from 2005. This latest advance will reduce running costs for business users by eliminating the 3 per cent diesel tax premium for UK drivers.

The newcomers further broaden the appeal of a range that already includes 3.7-litre and 4.2-litre, 40-valve V8 petrol models with 280PS and 335PS and a more recently introduced 32-valve V8 TDI combining 275PS with an exceptional 650Nm of torque and 29.4mpg economy. The highly competitive line-up will expand yet again in spring 2004, with the arrival of its flagship – the new long-wheelbase, 12-cylinder A8 L 6.0 quattro with 450PS.

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