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Orders are now being taken for the new Mercedes-Benz CLS-Class, which is available in two model versions. The CLS 350, equipped with the new, powerful V6 engine and the 7G-TRONIC automatic transmission, is priced exworks at 54,346 euros, while the V8 CLS 500 is being offered at 67,280 euros.

The CLS-Class is a unique vehicle concept which combines the elegance and dynamism of a coupé with the comfort and practicality of a saloon. Its spaciousness, luggage capacity and day-to-day practicality are at the level of a saloon, while the styling possesses the emotionally charged character of a coupé. With this currently unique combination, the new CLS-Class is a coupé generation ahead of the rest.

The technical specification also points the way to the future: adaptive front airbags, sidebags and windowbags are all fitted as standard, while options include state-of-the-art assistance systems like KEYLESS-GO, LINGUATRONIC, COMAND APS, bi-xenon headlamps with Active Light System and the dynamic multicontour seat. In the top CLS 500 model, features such as standard-fitted AIRMATIC DC air suspension and the THERMOTRONIC four-zone climate control provide S-Class levels of comfort.

As a unique synthesis of a coupé and a saloon, the new CLS-Class offers a great deal more added value than other coupés. With this new model, Mercedes-Benz is once again emphasising its role as a trendsetter for new ideas in the automotive world. The sophisticated aesthetics of this coupé design and the trailblazing technology are particularly aimed at people who have a passion for motor cars and motoring.

Comfort and spaciousness to saloon standards

The four-door coupé concept even allows passengers in the rear convenient access and egress. They have the benefit of two comfortable single seats and enjoy generous freedom of movement. There is a distance of 829 mm between the front and rear seats, which together with the shoulder and elbow-level width (1422 and 1464 millimetres respectively in the rear) puts the CLS-Class firmly in saloon territory. Newly developed seats with electric adjustment as standard are provided for the driver and front passenger; on request they can be equipped with active ventilation or delivered as dynamic multicontour seats. Furthermore, the boot of the new CLS-Class holds up to 505 litres (VDA measuring method) – much more than other coupés and even many a saloon.

Choice of powerful six and eight-cylinder engines

Both the engines available for the CLS-Class exhibit effortless performance and exemplary torque characteristics, providing the best possible conditions for dynamic driving pleasure. The CLS 350 is equipped with a newly developed V6 engine which has an output of 200 kW/272 hp and delivers its maximum torque of 350 newton metres from a mere 2400 rpm. Both are peak values in this displacement class.

The lively V6 engine harmonises with the likewise new 7G-TRONIC seven-speed automatic transmission, which is standard equipment. This is the world's first passenger car transmission of this type, and makes a major contribution to the strong acceleration and exemplary fuel consumption of the CLS 350.

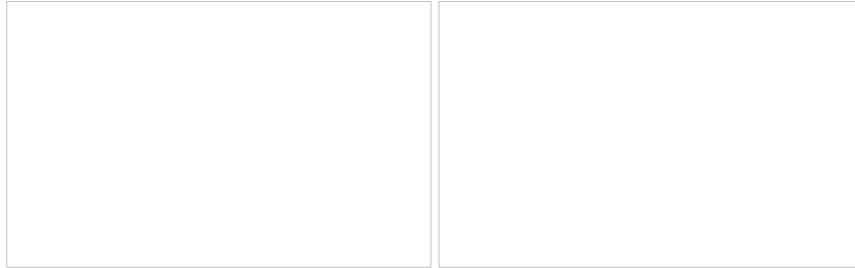
Standard appointments in the six-cylinder Coupé include THERMATIC automatic climate control, a stereo radio, speed-sensitive power steering, a leather-trimmed steering wheel, 17-inch light-alloy wheels and 245/45 R 17 wide-base tyres.

With the 5.0-litre V8 engine the new CLS 500 can hold its own in a performance comparison with thoroughbred sports cars, while offering the eight-cylinder comfort typical of a luxury-class saloon. This power unit has an output of 225 kW/306 hp and with 460 newton metres it gives the CLS 500 impressive torque, delivery of which is facilitated by the standard seven-speed automatic transmission.

The additional standard equipment in the CLS 500 (as compared with the CLS 350) includes AIRMATIC DC air suspension, THERMOTRONIC luxury climate control and 18-inch light-alloy wheels with 245/40 R 18 wide-base tyres.

Exclusive CLS 55 AMG available from spring 2005

From spring 2005, a 350 kW/476 hp AMG version of the CLS will be available. The specification of this high-performance Coupé, powered by an AMG 5.5 litre V8 super-charged engine, will include standard-fitted nappa leather AMG sports seats, bi-xenon headlamps with Active Light System and a five-speed automatic transmission with SPEEDSHIFT function. The CLS 55 AMG will be priced at 96,164 euros ex works.



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