CLASSIC DRIVER

Aston Martin to produce 'Club Racer' V8 Vantage

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At a champagne reception on Press Day at the British International Motor Show, the company's CEO, Dr Ulrich Bez, announced a limited production run of AM V8 Vantages to the specification of the recent 'Ring 24 Hours car. The factory prepared Aston Martin V8 Vantage finished 24th overall at the race, and customers will be able to order examples of the same car, which will be built to order at Aston Martin's Gaydon headquarters from August.

The V8 Vantage is almost entirely production standard, including the engine and transmission. The only modifications made – for safety and pit-lane efficiency – include a full mandatory safety cage, special fuel tank and fire system, racing seat, and built-in air jacks.

As the Vantage remains production standard, it can still be made road legal, allowing customers to drive from home and race at the track – as did the Vantage which completed the 24-hour endurance race in Germany in June.

Aston Martin Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ulrich Bez, said: "By finishing in the top 25 with a standard production Vantage at the Nürburgring, we showed the true capabilities of the car.

"The race marked a real achievement for both the car and the team – and to celebrate this we wanted to make the car available to customers who are motorsport enthusiasts wanting to participate in amateur racing.

"With our dedicated production and engine facilities we have greater flexibility than ever before, allowing us to consider small, special production runs – such as this project.

"One of the virtues of our company is the ability to react to what customers want and, as we demonstrate here, offer the ultimate in personalisation."

Prices will be confirmed in the coming weeks, but are expected to be close to the price of the standard production car, which starts at £82,800 ($113,200).

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