

CLASSIC DRIVER

Two new special editions from Aston Martin at Frankfurt



Not content with launching the DBS in Europe, the British manufacturer will have two extra surprises at Frankfurt, both influenced by its racing activities in recent times. They are the V8 Vantage N400, named after two years of entering the demanding Nürburgring 24 Hours, and the DB9 LM, a celebration of Aston Martin's GT1 class victory in this year's Le Mans 24-hour endurance classic with road car-derived DBR9s.

Both cars feature extensive cosmetic enhancements. However, it's the V8 Vantage that has a radically different technical specification from normal, and is available in both coupé and Roadster configurations, with either a conventional five-speed gearbox or Sportshift automated manual. Power is up from 380 to 400bhp, while the handling is changed by a new Sports Pack comprising lightweight graphite-finished aluminium wheels with diamond turning, uprated springs and dampers, and a new rear anti-roll bar.

The Sports Pack, and the general improvements to steering and 'feel' introduced with the Roadster, is likely to give the car more sporting appeal than before – a clear move on the 911 market. Inside the car, standard features include perforated black leather seats, micro-spin alloy fascia trim and a unique numbered sill plaque, together with a range of normally optional equipment, such as satellite navigation, Aston Martin Premium audio system, Bluetooth telephone preparation, cruise control and memory/heated seats.

You will know a Vantage N400 in the street (or on the track, perhaps) by its unique exterior colour. Buyers can choose from Storm Black, Lightning Silver or Karussell Orange.



The DB9 LM

Aston Martin scored a wonderful class victory at the Le Mans 24 Hours this summer, and all six DBR9s finished – with the highest-placed car an impressive 5th overall.

Equipped with the normally optional DB9 Sports Pack as standard, the roadgoing celebration of this achievement is painted in unique 'Sarthe Silver', being available in coupé form only with Touchtronic transmission.

Other external giveaways include smoked chrome meshes and rear crossbar, plus red brake calipers. Inside, the DB9 LM is fitted with handcrafted black leather finish, perforated leather inserts, unique facia trim and numbered sill plaque.

Aston Martin will confirm pricing details for both cars at the Frankfurt motor show.

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