

CLASSIC DRIVER

Rolls-Royce Phantom Coupé



The wraps will officially come off Rolls-Royce Motor Cars' third model at this year's Geneva show. Joining the Phantom Saloon and Drophead will be what we might daringly call a 'sporting' Coupé.

The new two-door retains the model line's well-known rear-hinged doors and 6.75-litre V12, coupling the sportier lines of the convertible with a hard coupé roof. The all-aluminium spaceframe, first seen in the Phantom, offers great strength and a very high degree of torsional rigidity.

Couple this with the 453bhp / 338kW motor (and seats 'closer-fitting than those of the Phantom') and Rolls may have produced a car - if not in quite the same league as the [Bentley Brooklands](#) - of seriously sporting intent.





Needless to say, it's in the execution of the interior and exterior that the Goodwood-based company excels. You can rely on a paint finish that comprises five individual coats of paint and lacquer - with hand-finishing between each layer - to be well up to the company's standard and, inside, rear-seat passengers can enjoy a curved sofa that interior designer Alan Sheppard describes as "intimate for two yet superbly comfortable on long journeys". Passengers and driver alike will experience the 420W, 15-metal-matrix-speaker hi-fi, courtesy of the car's Lexicon LOGIC7™ sound system.

Options abound, and buyers can choose from any one of 44,000 exterior colours, a one-off shade of leather, or the inclusion of the 'starlight-effect' interior lighting.

This is where hundreds of tiny fibre optics are integrated inside the roof-lining to give the impression of a star-filled night sky. There's also the brushed stainless steel finishing of the A-pillar and bonnet seen on previous motor show two-door Rolls-Royces, but it's an option and the initial press shots reveal a subtly attractive car lacking in excessive 'show'.



At the rear is another carry-over from the Drophead: a split-tail picnic boot with a lower tailgate that also provides a comfortable seating platform for two adults when lowered.

The Phantom Coupé will be hand-built alongside the other models at Rolls-Royce Motor Cars' manufacturing plant at Goodwood. No price indications have yet been revealed by the company.

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Photos: Rolls-Royce

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