

CLASSIC DRIVER

The 2008 Paris Motor Show



With new models from Ferrari and BMW, an exciting concept from Lamborghini and the One-77 'in the metal', this year's Paris show has proved to be one of the best in recent years.

The headlines will, no doubt, go to **Ferrari** as the Italian manufacturer launched its **California** to the general public. The subject of an intensive internet campaign, and shown to VIP, VVIP and – no doubt – VVVIP customers over the world, the new car looked an impressive machine, particularly in *Azzurro California* (a light metallic blue exclusive to the new car).



The proof of the pudding will be in the eating; underneath the new convertible's clothes lies a raft of new technology including the company's first front-mounted V8 and a brand-new 7-speed, dual-clutch transmission promising to offer seamless changes.

We can't wait to drive it.



Arch-rivals **Lamborghini** were showing the four-door (a first) **Estoque** to critical acclaim. [As described elsewhere on Classic Driver](#), it's a concept, but clearly a car ready to go into production should demand justify it. It looked fantastic and truly gave **Ferrari** a run for its money for 'wow factor'.



Aston Martin was located just across the aisle from **Ferrari** and decided - in conditions of great secrecy - to take the **One-77**. As befits the marque, a pin-striped bespoke cover had been carefully draped across the car to keep the world guessing its lines, with just a corner showing the new car's design DNA.





Still in **Classic Driver** territory, but moving slightly more mainstream, the prestige manufacturers had some interesting cars in Paris. **BMW** was showing its all-new **7-Series** and **Concept X1**, **Audi** the **A1 hatchback concept** and **S4**, and **Mercedes-Benz** the **ConceptFascination**.



On the small-but-quirky front, there was also the **MINI Crossover Concept** and the **Fiat 500 Abarth Esseesse**. And as it's become such a part of so many people's lives over the years, let's not forget the birth of a new hot **VW**: the **Mk VI Golf GTI** shown in 'concept' form but clearly a car ready for launch next year.



Needless to say, the home manufacturers had some stunning visions for the future, while **the** French luxury brand **Hermès** shifted the **Veyron** out of its atelier and brought in something a little more affordable: a **Citroën 2CV**. This was given the full, luxury leather treatment and makes a nice comment on today's economic concerns; that you can enjoy luxury on the most everyday items.







Next week we will have a full photo-gallery and a critique on the show by automotive design consultant **Chris Hrabalek** – don't forget to check back daily on **Classic Driver**.



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