

# CLASSIC DRIVER

## 4.7-litre Vantage GT4 replaces N24 as Aston Martin's Production Racer



**Developed in the spirit of the 1960s DB4GT, Aston Martin's latest contender for GT4 honours was unveiled at the Dubai Autodrome. Featuring an enlarged - now 4.7-litre - V8, the new car has a host of other improvements and modifications that should keep it a front-running machine in 2009.**

The revised engine capacity is in line with [the road car's extensive makeover this summer](#). The torque curve is the principle beneficiary of the extra 400cc, the extra capacity giving the small car greater flexibility and pick-up. Compared with standard, the GT4 (named after its FIA race category) has an engine management system recalibrated for race use and a free-flow exhaust system and air filters.

Additionally, all the race cars (built at Aston Martin Racing) are fitted with a high-strength steel rollcage, six-point racing harness and a Lifeline Zero 360 gas fire-extinguisher system. They are 300kg lighter than standard.

Other changes for 2009 include retuned suspension with modified front uprights (to give increased camber) and larger front brake discs with revised cooling. Clients can specify either a regular 'stick' 6-speed, or the Sportshift steering-wheel-mounted paddle-actuated gearbox successfully debuted this year at the Nürburgring 24 Hours.



The Aston Martin Vantage GT4 is priced from £96,645 and is available to order now, with delivery in January 2009.

It is eligible to compete in the following series: FIA GT4 European Cup; British GT4 Championship; Britcar Endurance Series; German GT4 Championship; Dutch Supercar Challenge; Dutch GT4 Championship; VLN Endurance Championship at the Nürburgring; Australian Endurance Championship; the American SCCA Championship; and the Aston Martin Owners Club Race Series.

Aston Martin's chairman, David Richards - present at the launch - commented: "In the last two years, the N24 has proved to be one of the most successful cars in its class, winning the Nürburgring 24 Hours this year, as well as several FIA GT4 races.

"We have built on this success to develop the Vantage GT4, a competitive racing car for professional and semi-professional drivers but also a forgiving car which will appeal to enthusiasts who wish to use it for track days and club racing."

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*Photos - Aston Martin Racing*

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