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Ferrari 599XX Sets New Record at the 'Ring

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Breaking the 7-minute barrier on the legendary Nürburgring *Nordschleife* is a feat that few race cars can accomplish: but now, for the first time, a production-derived sports car has lapped the full 20.832km *Nordschleife* in just 6min 58.16sec. Step up to the podium, Ferrari 599XX.

The **599XX**, the car that inspired the **599 GTO**, is an extreme *berlinetta* designed for track but not for official competition use. And, as **Ferrari** proudly says, it is “a veritable technological laboratory”. Take, for example, the F1-derived wheel doughnuts which serve two practical purposes: to reduce turbulence (and hence drag), and to improve brake cooling.

The in-car footage of the record lap is worth watching just to hear the engine noise. Although the **Ferrari** is running on slicks, and is far from road legal (hence the link with road cars is a bit stretched), it's quite clearly a phenomenally quick machine.

After watching the video, our resident **Nordschleife** expert opined, “Fast on the straight, isn’t it? Blimey!” (Although, apparently, the **599XX** driver “turned into **Wippermann** corner too early, putting two wheels on the kerb on the left after the crest, and backed off early at several key points – such as **Schwedenkreuz** and **Kesselchen/Klostertal**”. Which simply goes to prove how quick this car really is.)

The **599XX’s** engine is a development of the V12 unit used by the **599 GTB Fiorano**, while sophisticated electronics are in place to govern the mechanical limits of the handling – for truly extreme performance.

The car also sees the introduction of an aerodynamics first: the ‘**Actiflow**’ system that increases downforce and/or cuts drag depending on the car’s trim during cornering. This helps the **599XX** achieve up to 630kg of downforce. At, ahem, 300km/h, that is.

Text: Charis Whitcombe

Photos/Video: Ferrari

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