

CLASSIC DRIVER

New Audi RS6 Avant: Sub-four-seconds to 62mph

Lead

It's been a long wait but we think it was worth it. Two years after the debut of the current Audi A6 comes the RS6 flagship model.

All too often, the appearance of an RS version is bad news for the model range – suggesting it's nearing the end of its production run and the RS is just to keep buyers interested. But not this time. This is no last-ditch attempt to keep the A6 fresh but a proper 'executive class' RS Avant super-estate with the right mix of ingredients.

Not only does the flagship estate boast the ability to carry up to 1680 litres of luggage, but it can whizz that luggage to 62mph in just 3.9 seconds (significantly outgunning its V10 predecessor), and on to a top speed of 189mph. That sub-four-second sprint comes courtesy of a 4.0-litre V8 TFSI biturbo petrol engine, featuring cylinder-on-demand technology that keeps Combined fuel consumption at a healthy 28.8mpg.





The 560HP peak power and 700Nm of torque is channelled through eight-speed tiptronic transmission and quattro all-wheel drive. RS-specific adaptive air suspension comes as standard – the first time air suspension has been featured on an RS – although there's also the option of steel-sprung suspension incorporating Dynamic Ride Control (DRC).

While enjoying the intensity of the RS6 Avant's acceleration, switchable flaps in the exhaust system mean you can enjoy an even 'fuller' V8 soundtrack at the mere touch of a button; and if that's not enough, an optional sports exhaust will offer still greater amplification.

With around 20 per cent of the body formed in aluminium, Audi engineers have been able to reduce the weight of the new RS 6 Avant by a remarkable 100kg compared with its predecessor, providing a substantial boost to performance, efficiency and agility.

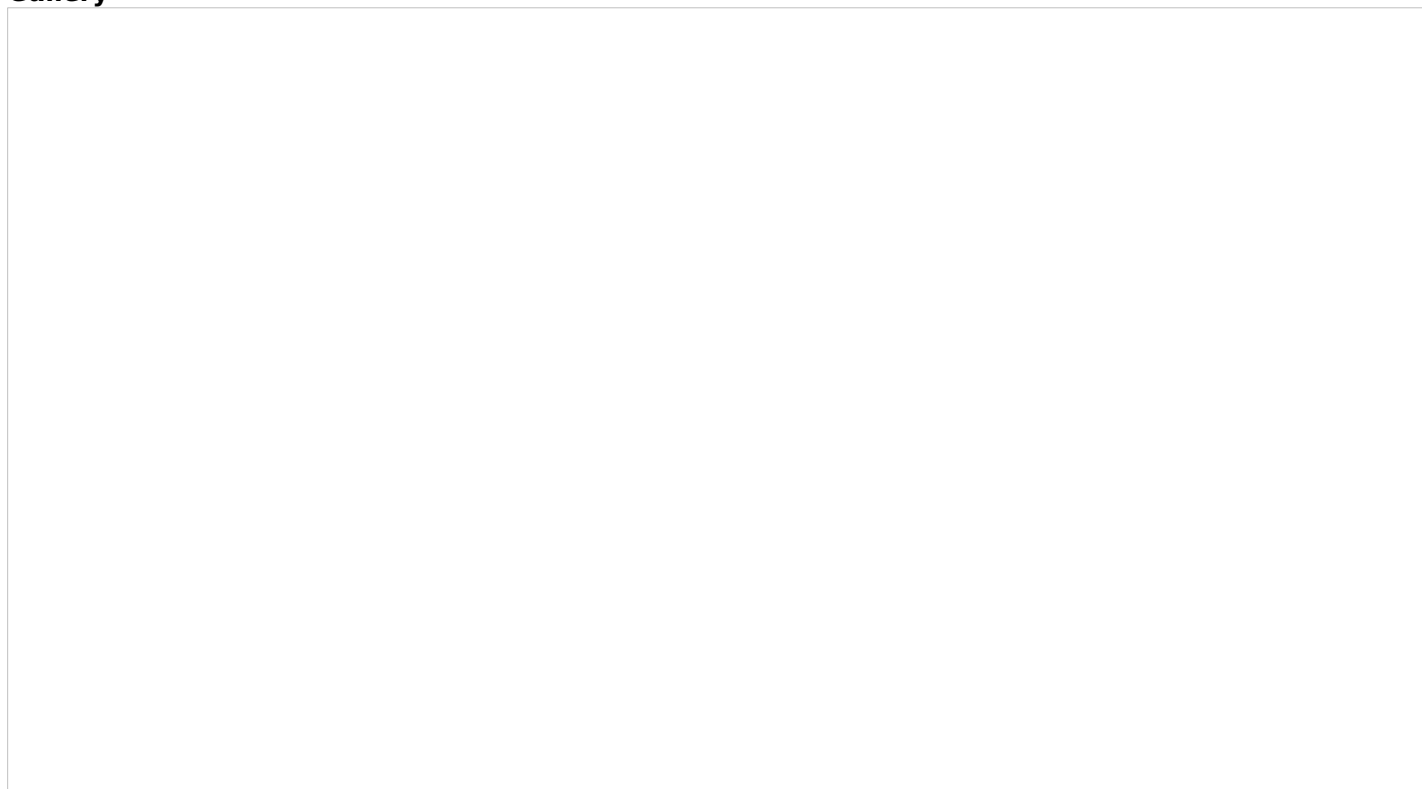


From the outside, there are plenty of RS-specific design details to highlight its identity: matte aluminium detailing on the body, matte black honeycomb radiator grille, along with distinctively styled bumpers, wings, sill flares and a large roof spoiler. From the rear, the diffuser and two large, elliptical exhaust tailpipes make an even bolder statement.

The third-generation RS 6 Avant is available to order from early 2013, priced at approximately GBP 77,000 OTR in the UK. First UK deliveries are scheduled for next summer.

Photos: Audi

Gallery







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