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Mercedes-Benz SL 60 AMG: Days of thunder

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Although summer has passed for another year, drop-top driving in the crisp autumnal sun is an experience not to be missed. As the evenings draw in, this rare 1996 Mercedes-Benz SL 60 AMG could have you making the most of that fast-fading light...

When the thunderous German V8 catches, all those post-summer blues instantly evaporate. Besides, the SL 60's 381HP/580Nm is more than enough to outrun those sudden autumn showers. The enlarged 6-litre engine boasted some impressive performance figures - the 0-60mph sprint is dealt with in just 5.8sec while those brave enough to remove the car's 155mph speed-limiter could manage around 185mph flat-out. Interestingly, insiders at the AMG skunkworks said that those figures were modest, and claimed the car was both quicker and more powerful than suggested at the time.

Should the giant-killing performance still not brighten your mood, perhaps the elegant, two-tone Designo leather interior will? The electronically adjustable heated seats will keep you toasty when the temperatures plummet, and when the weather does turn, the moody skies can still be admired through the panoramic glass roof. It's a common misconception that convertibles cannot be enjoyed in the winter months. The (extremely rare) SL 60 AMG could be the perfect car for that dry, bright, autumnal morning blast.

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