

MOTORING MATTERS *by Sandie Goodwin*

POPULAR AND DISTINCTIVE – PEUGEOT 307 CC

Although this summer has offered fewer opportunities than last summer to enjoy topless motoring, during my test period for the Peugeot 307 CC Sport HDi 136 the weather was kind and I was able to enjoy several journeys with the roof down. Back in the 1930's, Peugeot started the concept of the Coupé Cabriolet, with the 401, 601 and 402 "Eclipse" models. Today's cars, the 206 and 307 CC have made the brand the No. 1 seller of Coupé Cabriolets. Since 2001 world wide sales are more than 500,000 vehicles.

This car is a good looking coupe with the roof up; it was particularly stylish in the metallic Neysha Blue with lama leather interior. The Sport models have cruise control with speed limiter and aluminium pedals, in addition to standard equipment which includes the alloy wheels and air conditioning with a temperature controlled glove box. CC models are available in either S or Sport trim specification. My test model was a 2.0 litre diesel engine, with a six speed manual gearbox; it is possible to choose an auto gearbox. The sports steering wheel on the test vehicle was leather trimmed and was adjustable to get a perfect driving position. The driving seat also had plenty of adjustment. The car is marketed as a four seater and has a reasonable amount of space in the rear cabin. For the majority of the time, owners of the 307CC will only have one or two adults on board so this is not a major issue. With the roof up, there is plenty of space in the boot, but of course this quickly diminishes when the metal roof is folded down.

The steering is responsive; the dashboard sports white dials with chrome and aluminium detailing. The car handles well and makes enjoying the sun a pleasure. Ride quality is comfortable without the "shake" that can be felt in some open top cars. The roof folds down in just 25 seconds at the touch of a button. During my test period I took the car on the M25 with the roof down and the noise levels were



better than I had perhaps expected, it was possible to hold a conversation without shouting at my passenger. There is an optional wind deflector which helps with both noise and wind levels but of course this does mean losing the rear passenger space once it is fitted. However it is quick and easy to put in, and it takes up little space in the boot when not in use. Thanks to the styling of the car it turns heads which is exactly what owners of Coupe Cabriolets want.

One of the benefits of a metal folding roof is the security of the vehicle. Owners of soft tops have concerns when parking their vehicles, but not with the 307 CC. Peugeot say that the CC has stronger door locks than the hatchback version. Inside the cabin is good quality and there are a host of extras and choices to make your vehicle individual. The test model featured a 5 CD autochanger – perfect for playing your favourite summer music as you cruise around. The 307CC is also an economical car to run with the combined fuel consumption at 47 mpg. Emissions are also good, putting the diesel test model in Band D for VED, costing £140.00 per year. Insurance Group for this model is 11E adding to the economical running costs. The price of this model was £22,417 with optional extras such as sat nav. There are three petrol versions available: a 110bhp 1.6-litre, a 140bhp 2.0-litre or 180bhp 2.0-litre engine which features a variable valve timing system (VVT). Prices start from around £17,500 with a Peugeot 2-Year unlimited mileage manufacturers warranty and a free optional 1-Year of warranty provided by the Peugeot Dealer Network in the UK.



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