

## MOTORING MATTERS by Sandie Goodwin

### ALL-NEW IBIZA FIVE-DOOR HATCHBACK

SEAT recently launched their all-new Ibiza 5-door hatchback models. For those of us who are already fans of SEAT cars, the new Ibiza is set to please even more with its good looks designed under the direction of Luc Donckerwolke, formerly of Lamborghini. The new Ibiza is the first use of the Volkswagen Group's new 'supermini' platform ahead of fellow VW family members, VW, Audi and Skoda. Now on sale, the new Ibiza is available with a choice of 1.2, 1.4 and 1.6-litre petrol engine

options, with prices ranging from £8,995 to £11,295. Longer than the current model, the new Ibiza is 4.05 m, and has improved rear seat legroom. Produced exclusively at SEAT's state-of-the-art factory facilities in Martorell, near Barcelona, hi-tech options (depending on model) include Bluetooth phone connection with voice control; combined iPod/USB connection; ESP Electronic Stability Programme; Bi-xenon headlights with AFS; climate control air conditioning and Hill Hold Control. Another option is a clever new pre-installed dock located in the centre of the dash above the ventilation nozzles ready to take the TomTom One V3 satnav, although in future owners will be able to dock other satnav systems.

SEAT's reputation for appealing to younger drivers continues, but the appeal is broadening with more mature drivers being attracted by the 'auto-emocion' advertising SEAT does. The supermini market is competitive and the new Ibiza is up against models such as the Vauxhall Corsa, Peugeot 207, Mazda 2, Renault Clio, Skoda Fabia and Fiat Punto. These smaller cars are increasingly gaining sales as people look for more economic cars but they do not want to compromise on the interior of their vehicles. There are three specifications of the new Ibiza; these are S, SE and Sport. SEAT believe that the 1.4 SE will be the most popular, priced at £10,395. This model has a 85PS (83bhp) four-cylinder petrol engine which official figures indicate as returning 45.5mpg on a combined fuel cycle and emitting 149g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>, which means only £120 Vehicle Excise Duty. SE models have air conditioning, trip



computer, electronically adjustable and heated door mirrors, front and rear electric windows, cruise control and 15-inch alloy wheels as standard and the Sport models also has sports suspension, sports seats, leather clad steering wheel and gear lever knob and low profile tyres on 16-inch alloy wheels.

For those looking for a bigger engine there is a new 1.6-litre petrol engine, a 105PS (103bhp) unit with 153Nm of torque. This still gives 42.8mpg. On the launch, I tried out the new 1.6 engine and found it was surprisingly quiet. It drives well, having taken a long test drive over a variety of roads from country lanes to the busy M6. The car was good on all types of road, handling different surfaces well. It is easy to get a comfortable driving

position even for taller drivers. The boot is large enough for all your shopping needs, with a 292-litre capacity with the rear seats in place. Once these are folded, there is even more space – up to a maximum 847-litres.

With Euro NCAP safety ratings for passenger protection of five-stars, four stars for child protection and three stars for pedestrian safety, the new Ibiza is equipped with airbags, including thorax units. The warranty package offered with Ibiza 5dr includes a Three-year/60,000 mile warranty (comprises two-year manufacturer's warranty with unlimited mileage plus a further one-year Dealer Warranty limited to 60,000 miles), 12-year anti-perforation warranty – the Ibiza 5dr has a fully-galvanised steel body, a Three-year paintwork warranty against manufacturing defects and Two-year SEAT Assistance roadside assistance package. All Ibiza 5 door models have the same servicing requirements. A major service is required only at 20,000-mile intervals with an oil change every 10,000 miles. Ibiza 5 doors which travel less than 10,000 miles a year require an inspection service, which includes oil change, every 12 months. Later this year, the Ibiza 3 door SportCoupe versions will be introduced, followed by the diesel, Cupra and FR variants next year.

### CITROËN FLAIR FOR ARSENAL SQUAD

Arsene Wenger, Manager of Arsenal Football Club has chosen Citroën UK as Official Car Supplier to the Club for the start of the new season. Agreement has been reached on an exclusive 3 year contract, which sees the Club taking delivery of a range of vehicles. Coaches and club staff will be able to enjoy the critically acclaimed, stylish new C5 and C4 Picasso – both of which recently picked up the What Car? Green Car of the Year titles for the family and MPV categories respectively.

The Citroen Berlingo, Dispatch and Relay models will be used to transport players and



training equipment around the country and support the Club's established Community programme. Xavier Duchemin, Managing Director at Citroën UK commented "Teaming up

with one of the most successful English football clubs is an indication of the strength of our brand. We clearly share some similarities with Arsenal; we both have a reputation for creativity, style and flair."

Ken Friar, Director Arsenal Football Club, commented: "We're delighted to be involved with Citroën for the start of the new season. The Company has an innovative range of cars and Light Commercial Vehicles, which will provide our staff and coaches with safe, secure and, most importantly, environmentally conscious options."