

A rare look at the exotic 2008 Maserati Quattroporte

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

'This is an Agile-Handling, Exotic Speed Machine,' says Lead Auto Expert, Mark Perleberg

Lead Auto Expert, Mark Perleberg, of NADAguides.com a leading vehicle pricing and information website, recently got a rare test drive of the new 2008 Maserati Quattroporte. Today, Perleberg weighs in on the car's overall performance and design features.

The new 2008 Maserati Quattroporte is an "agile-handling, exotic speed machine" according to NADAguides.com.

"The 2008 Maserati Quattroporte is a car designed specifically for the luxury sedan buyer who wants to break out of the norm," said Perleberg. "This is an agile-handling, exotic speed machine with interesting curb appeal."

Since its introduction at the 2003 Frankfurt Auto Show, the new 2008 Maserati Quattroporte was designed to be a high-performance luxury sedan for the discriminating buyer. Equipped with a high-revving 4.2-liter V8 engine that cranks out 400 horsepower (and a perfectly-proportioned balance of weight for optimum handling), the new 2008 Maserati Quattroporte is a perfect alternative for the BMW 7-Series or the Mercedes-Benz S-Class buyer, according to Perleberg.

Perleberg says that an often-criticized feature -- the "Duo-Select" sequential manual transmission (offered in all models) -- is being offered alongside a new six-speed automatic transmission in the 2008 version. The automatic transmission -- designed by ZF Friedrichshafen and one that has the ability to handle the car's V8 power while still retaining its 50/50 weight distribution -- was developed due to market demand.

"Although the racer in me prefers the Duo-Select, the new six-speed automatic transmission doesn't detract from the car's agile handling or the engine's ability to rev freely to redline," said Perleberg.

With annual sales of the 2007 model expected to reach only 2,300 units this year (of which 45% represents U.S. sales), the new six-speed automatic transmission should help place the new 2008 Maserati Quattroporte on the wish list of future buyers who may not have looked in this car's direction otherwise, Perleberg says. Maserati officials anticipate that 80% of U.S. buyers will opt for the \$1,200 automatic option over the duo-select -- perhaps the sales boost Maserati representatives are looking for.

"Ferrari's ownership of Maserati has restored the honored marquee that saw tough times in the late 1980s," said Don Christy Jr., President and CEO, NADAguides.com.

MSRP of the new 2008 Maserati Quattroporte is estimated at \$125,000, according to NADAguides.com. In addition to pricing and specification information for the Maserati Quattroporte, NADAguides.com offers car buying reviews, car dealer pricing, car quotes, NADA book buying services, new car buying guides and used car buying guides. Additionally, visitors can access side-by-side comparisons, where they have the opportunity to compare new cars side-by-side in real time, as well as new car reviews to help them with their car buying research.

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