

Quentin



SYLVIA Mehegan has seen a private advert for a high-mileage 2000 Peugeot 306 at £1,100. It needs a new cambelt and water pump, which the seller says will cost around £150. Is this a good deal?

QUENTIN SAYS: It's the worst deal in



the world. The pump and belt will be a minimum of £400 – and a tired, starship-mileage, 10-year-old 306 is worth little more than scrap money. Spend £1,500 and get yourself a 52-plate Ford Ka with under 60k miles. That's a much more sensible idea.

So let's all say hi to Hyundai's hi-tech handbook



THE car handbook may be no more. Hyundai's new Equus won't come with the seldom-read traditional paper manual, but an iPad reader instead. Everything you need will be available via a touch-screen button, including making wi-fi appointments with the local service department. Will we regret the passing of the owner's manual? I think not.



Bogus but beautiful

Ferris's £40k faux Ferrari

NOT so long ago Chris Evans forked out £5 million for a Ferrari 250GT Spyder with Hollywood connections. This month another movie 250, a replica California Spyder, built for the 1986 film Ferris Bueller's Day Off, goes under the hammer with the much more reasonable price tag of £30,000-£40,000. The steel-framed fibreglass-bodied lookalike has a 289 Ford Mustang 4.7 V8 with auto box, and comes with a haystack of restoration bills and letters of authenticity. Faux or not, at less than 1 per cent of what Mr Evans paid, this is a snip.

This formidable Ford Focus is the fastest yet



HERE'S a sure-fire investment. Ford's new Focus RS500 hits the streets this summer, but with only 101 destined for the UK, you'd better get down to your Ford dealer when the order book opens on May 1. Powered by a 345bhp five-pot, it promises a 60 sprint of 5.5 seconds and top whack of 162mph. No official price yet, but expect change from £35,000. At that money every single one will find a very grateful owner, some of whom are sure to sell their RS500s on at a profit ...

I was a boy and this is a racer ...



IN 1971 I went to the Earl's Court Motor Show in my short trousers and sat in what I thought was the most glorious car in the world, the seven-litre AC 428. Well, that very car has surfaced and is up for auction this month by Bonhams, with an estimate of £50,000-£70,000. If this pristine show car comes at anything less than £90k, it'll be a steal. You can even buy its AC 428 registration by separate negotiation.

S club number is money on a plate

STILL big money for small numbers. At last week's DVLA sale in Manchester, 9 O made £94k, OFF 1 £37k and 2 OOO £31k. Bargain of the day had to be SSS 55S (all the Ss) at just £3,400. Sizzling good value, that.

OFF 1

2 000

SSS 55S

SNAKE CH

WHO'D DRIVE IT
Exclusive extremists

If A Bugatti Veyron's too common, you need a Hennessey Venom GT.

Unveiled this week and made in Silverstone, this 262 mph, monster power-to-weight ratio, modern-day Cobra uses a much-modified Lotus Elise platform and twin-turbo LS9 Corvette V8 engine shipped from Texas.

Available in three suicidal states of tune - 725bhp, 1000bhp and 1200bhp - the Venom GT is claimed to be good for a sub-three second sixty sprint, with the most powerful knocking on the door of 270.

Weighing less than a Ford Fiesta at just 1,100kg, thanks to abundant carbon fibre, the mid-engined configuration uses a six-speed Recaro box, adjustable rear wing,

active aerodynamics and programmable traction control.

And all that epic speed needs the retardation of 15-inch carbon fibre brakes with six-piston callipers.

Prices are vague at the moment, but insiders say less than £500k is realistic - maybe that's why four of this year's allocation have already been snapped up.

Sensibly, Hennessey are throwing in a special save-your-life driving course. One thing's for sure - with only 10 being made every year, the Venom GT isn't just the world's fastest supercar, it's also the most exclusive.

Park it between a brace of Bugattis and this bonkers Brit-built bruiser will outshine them both.

NEW VENOM



Something wicked this way comes...

Willson

**BRITAIN'S
NO.1 MOTORING
WRITER**



Got a problem?
Email me at
willson@sunday
mirror.co.uk

Kia...faulted
but funky



HELP!
You ask
me

Q I HAVE taken a shine to the Kia Soul. I love the shape and the long warranty, but some of the reviews are a bit off-putting. What's your opinion? - *Geoff Allen, by email*

A THE Kia Soul is nothing if not unusual. The ride's a bit harsh and the engine could be a bit smoother, but you'll never see another one and the interior's quite funky. It'll be cheap to run, is built for keeps

and comes with Kia's ultra-long seven-year warranty. £12k for the Soul 2 1.6 isn't bad either. Go on - dare to be different.

Q MY wife and I are looking to change our cars in the near future and are considering the Toyota Prius Mk 3. Given Toyota's recent bad publicity,

should we steer clear? - *Rod Lewin, by email*

A NO. The latest generation Prius (left) is a fine car. Don't let the rumpus put you off. You'll get 60mpg, unerring reliability, epic resale value, zero road tax and no congestion charge. It's still the best hybrid around.



ARMER

SUPERCAR HITS 270MPH



BLING'S NOT THE THING



The tarty Startech XJ

YOU know a car is absolutely right when the tuning boys have a job to gild the lily. Jag's luscious new XJ has been given the treatment by German tuning outfit Startech, who have blinged it up with some LED driving lights, new side vents

and four angular exhaust extractors. But let's be honest, at an extra 10 grand or so, you'd be better to stick with the original Ian Callum-designed masterpiece, which frankly needs no improvement whatsoever.



Far from a bargain basement

Get yourself an enviable elevator

HOW nice to be able to tell your architect that your new house must have a nine-car garage in the basement, with an automatic lift that raises your choice of supercar into the living room. Japanese architect Takuya Tsuchida has designed exactly that for an obscenely rich Tokyo client, who wanted something to break the ice at dinner parties. We can only dream.

WHO WANTS A BARGAIN?

NINE grand for a mint, one-owner Merc C43 AMG may sound dear, but not when its one owner was Roger Daltrey of The Who. For details of the 79,000-mile '98 S-plater, call 01621 786529.



Monster rims are carbon fibre with sticky Michelin PS2 rubber

TECH FILE

ENGINE 6162CC
TWIN-TURBO V8

POWER 1200BHP

0-60 2.6

MAX 270

PRICE UNDER £500,000

IN A WORD INSANE

Suspension can be electronically adjusted to within millimetres of the ground



Rear of the Year