

## Why web is just the place for just good cars

HERE'S a good website if you're looking for anything a bit unusual.

Justgoodcars.com has a massive reach, with plenty of private sellers and a helpful currency converter.

Whether you fancy old Mercs, BMs, modern Bentleys or Astons, there's a really rare mix of weird and wonderful stuff.

Don't bother trawling through reams of scrambled type - this is the way to search for any wheels internationally.

## It's a frighteningly fast sale for the fastest Ferrari..



LAST week the world was salivating about Ferrari's 599 GTO.

Well, salivate no more. Because in seven short days they've sold the lot.

Global recession or not, there are still 599 people in the world desperate enough to pay £300,000 for a car they've not even seen, let alone driven.

Such is the power of the prancing horse.

## Electric dreams will soon be a reality

THE US military say we're going to run out of oil by 2015.

And they should know.

China has now become the second largest consumer of crude oil in the world after the US and their growing industrial urbanisation has caused an 85 per cent jump in car sales in the last six months..

Terrifying numbers that mean all those little electric cars are going to come into their own very soon indeed.

## So vote us out of the slow lane



TO any political party that's listening, I say this. We have to do something about our roads.

The nation's economic well-being and quality of life will be threatened if we don't start building more roads and repairing the ones we've got.

In the last decade we've expanded our motorway network by just 1 per cent and our trunk roads are so neglected and underfunded they're dangerous.

Go to [www.rua.org.uk](http://www.rua.org.uk), the Road Users Alliance website, and you'll see just how bad things have become.



This early '61 E-Type is a peach

## E'S COMING UP

BLIMEY. Will old E-Type prices ever stop rising? The 80th right-hand drive roadster made - and one of the batch of early '61 cars that went to celebrities and racing drivers - has surfaced. Mint and restored, it's up for a titanic £135,000.

And I remember once buying one with the clutch gone for £495. Now that's what I call an investment. Details at [www.nickwhale.co.uk](http://www.nickwhale.co.uk).

# Quentin



SID Carne from Liverpool recently bought a 58-plate Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi. A light on the dash shaped like the engine is now staying on, and the car is running sluggishly. What's the problem? Will his Network Q warranty cover it?

QUENTIN SAYS: Sounds like your particulate filter is blocked, which is why the engine management warning light is

staying on. This is a common malady on town-bound oil-burners and the quickest fix is to take your car on to a motorway and drive it for half an hour to burn off the soot. If that doesn't work, put it into your dealer, but you may find your warranty excludes exhaust, catalytic converter and particulate filter. For filters, try Euro Car Parts, which has a nationwide delivery service.



# A BLACK BI CUSTOM BENZ HAS WOW FACTOR



Brabus Vanish SL65 AMG hits 60 in less time than it takes to say its name

### TECH FILE

ENGINE: 5980CC V12  
POWER: 800HP  
0-60: 3.6  
MAX: 210  
PRICE: AROUND £400,000  
IN A WORD: BRUTIFUL

800 horses are cooled by extra radiator and front air dam

# Willson

SMI

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



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

**HELP!  
You ask  
me**



**Ka... smarter  
than a Smart**

**Q** I'M a 69-year-old lady who needs an inexpensive car. My mileage is low and my current car is an elderly Ford Ka. I have had VW Polos and Golfs, but feel these will be too expensive to buy and run. Do you think a Smart is a good idea?  
- Jackie Pearce, by email

**A** THE Smart is sweet but it's strictly a two-seater, with barely enough room for a couple of bags of shopping.

Decent used examples start at around £2k, but I'm sure you'd tire of the impracticality. Why not go with what you know? Buy yourself a 03-plate Ka with less than 30k miles for under two grand. They're the cheapest, most reliable and respectable wheels I know.

**Q** I HAVE a 2007 Vauxhall Corsa with 32,000 miles. I have been informed that my front coil spring is broken,

which will cost £300 to fix. Do you think this is fair wear and tear?  
- T Williams, by email

**A** NO. Coil springs should last longer than three years and 30,000 miles. The failure rate used to be quite low but the appalling state of our roads means damage is much more common. If you know the specific pothole that broke your spring, you may have a claim against your council.

# BEAUTY



**If the Devil  
could drive..**

You need serious fix-pot stoppers for a top speed of 210mph

**W**HEN cars get customised, good taste sometimes gets pushed to its furthest limits. But here's a pimped ride that's better than the original.

Not content with owning one of the fastest road cars Mercedes have ever made, a wealthy Dubai sheikh wanted to hot up his £250,000 V12 twin-turbo AMG SL65 Black Series, so he took it to Brabus for the full Monty.

The legendary Benz tuner wrapped the car in matt black, dumped in a four-stage intercooler, bigger turbos, brakes and exhaust and an extra radiator, plus a new gearbox and revised ECU, making the thing crank out an apocalyptic

**WHO'D DRIVE IT**

Anyone who has a spare tyre that means 60 in 3.6 and a top speed of 210mph. And not a hint of blingy gold or 400 large.

Nobody's saying how much the conversion actually cost, but I wouldn't expect there was much change from £150k.

Now I don't want to be a spoilsport, but I'm driving round in an SL63 AMG that costs £100,000, takes one second longer to get to 60 and can scamper all the way to 185 because it's delimited.

Call me old-fashioned, but I'm not sure one second less to sixty and 25mph at the top end justifies an extra three hundred grand.

This is one case where cheaper is most definitely better.

Mind you, the sheikh's screamer looks the mutt's nuts and I absolutely love the name Vanish...

**Black  
beauty..**

## OUR FREE CAR GARAGE



**F40... it's  
on the  
house**

SELLING houses in the United States is tough at the moment.

But a seller in Malibu, California, may just have come

up with the best housewarming present ever - a £490,000 Ferrari F40 tucked away in the 13-car garage, absolutely free. The only trouble is, if you want

to get your hands on the keys, you've got to complete on the house sale by June 30.

Decisions, decisions.



**Lowest  
mileage  
Puma is the  
word**

## The perfect Puma is worth a punt

HERE'S an unrepeatable opportunity. A 2000X Ford Puma 1.4 with just 986 genuine miles from new. Looking perfectly period in metallic juice green, it's claimed to be absolutely "as new" with no faults, marks or stone chips.

Asking price is £6,995, which, given its new price of fourteen grand 10 years ago, isn't that dear. Try finding another one like it. More on 01695 632014.

## THE PHANTOM MENACE



**Geely sorry...  
BMW were  
not happy**

CHINESE automaker Geely got into trouble with BMW a while back for plagiarising their Rolls Phantom, so they've had to

rework the front end to avoid big-bucks legal action.

The new-look Geely GE Limousine shows that the

Chinese just can't design cars. It looks like something that was dreamt up by a bloke in a lukewarm bath.