



**THE NO.1
BEST SELLER**

MAY 2019 • £4.70 • US\$11.70

Mercedes

ENTHUSIAST

**MERC
TRADER
FOR BUYING
& SELLING**



**DOUBLE
TREAT**

**RARE CL65 AMG
SUPERSTARS**



**PLUS
C63
AMG**

**BUYER'S
GUIDE**



**4MATICs
TESTING TIME**



123-SERIES V8 COUPE



PAGODA RALLY CAR • E53 AMG ESTATE

05
9 771474 703179

The Geneva International Motor Show is always full of new Mercedes content...



The fastest electric car on the Mercedes stand by far was the EQ Silver Arrow 01

△ The GLE's new interior certainly oozed luxury.

△△ Latest GLE53 AMG was flying the G-Class flag.

△△ EQ Silver Arrow 01 looked very purposeful.

Show stars

Mercedes presented plenty of content at this year's Geneva International Motor Show, with everything covered from respectful send offs of old models to new, futuristic designs

WORDS AND IMAGES IAN KUAH

Of all the OE manufacturers at Geneva, Mercedes undoubtedly had the biggest spread of models, from small electric Smart cars to ultra luxurious Maybachs, with the full Mercedes and AMG range in between.

Maintaining its impetus behind electrification, Mercedes presented the Concept EQV, an all electric version of the face-lifted V-Class. Powered by a 150kW (198bhp)

electric motor driving the front axle alone and fed by a 100kW (132bhp) Lithium-Ion battery, the EQV has a claimed range of around 250 miles.

By far the fastest electric car on the Mercedes stand was its EQ Silver Arrow 01, developed and run by HWA, who have handled the Mercedes-Benz DTM efforts in previous years.

Ironically, while this car presented the definitive look of the Mercedes 2019/20 Formula E

season entrant, there was not a single trace of silver colouring to be seen on the EQ Silver Arrow 01 concept's colour scheme.

The new A-Class hatch has been a great sales success in Europe, with the four-door saloon version doing well in the US and Chinese markets. Targeting more niche market customers, the stylish CLA coupe and Shooting Brake models now join the range, all benefiting from the class leading MBUX infotainment system.

On a more sombre note, the segment that Mercedes arguably invented with the SLK and its innovative folding hardtop back in 1996 has run its course. Thus, the SLC will not be replaced, and the yellow SLC300 on the stand represents the Final Edition.

The SL has also been suffering from dwindling sales and an all new version has been promised for 2020. The SL Grand Edition shown at Geneva is a last hurrah for this model, with a choice of a 365bhp ▷



△ Interior of the SL Grand Edition is as good as it gets.

△△ The last of the current SL looks good too.

△△ Mercedes has a huge stand and drew crowds.

△ New flagship GT R Roadster will be a limited run.

△△ The Shooting Brake A-Class is a smart new model.



△ The A-Class saloon builds on current success.

▷ There was heavy emphasis on the EQ models.

▽△ The SLC300 Final Edition will send off the SLK...

▽▷ ...which is yellow in a nod to the 1996 model.



UPFRONT EVENT Geneva 2019

▷ three-litre, biturbo straight-six in the SL400, or the 439bhp 4.6-litre biturbo V8 in the SL500.

Elsewhere, the open version of the AMG GT continues to be desirable though, and the 549bhp GT R Roadster made its debut as the range flagship with production limited to just 750 cars. The new GLE has got off to a great start, and while the GLE63 AMG will not be unveiled until later in the year, the AMG GLE53 whose 423bhp turbocharged straight-six punches it to 62mph in 5.3 seconds, fills the gap till then.

Another send off model marks the end of the V12 era for the S-Class. The last car to use the mighty M279 six-litre biturbo 12-cylinder motor is the S65 AMG, which officially retires with this Final Edition of 130 cars.

MERCEDES TUNERS AT GENEVA 2019

Brabus

Acknowledged Masters of the G-Wagen universe, Brabus have benefitted from the relatively light and powerful M177 and M178 four-litre biturbo V8 engines installed in the latest versions of the G500 and G63 AMG.

Cranked up to 790bhp and over 730lb ft of torque, the M178 in the Brabus 800 Widestar blasts this huge machine to 62mph in just 4.1 seconds and on to an electronically limited 149mph top speed!

To make a taller G63, Brabus took a last generation model, tuned its motor further, and swapped in the 4x4x2 portal axles.

The Mercedes-Maybach might be the last word in luxury but a mere 604bhp is not enough for some plutocrats. With 888bhp and 1,100lb ft of torque the tuned V12 rockets this 2,700kg limo to 62mph in a champagne spilling 3.7 seconds and on to 217mph.

▷ Mansory's Apertus Edition was rather bold...

▷▷ ...and the interior matched the exterior well!

▷▷▷ Optional 20-inch alloys on the new AMG GT4.



Mansory

Mansory always woos the crowds at Geneva with a spread of highly personalised, borderline outrageous takes on supercars and luxury cars, with craftsmanship and finish second to none.

This year, its two Mercedes based creations really stood out from a distance. Called the 'Apertus Edition' the mint green S-Class cabriolet had a matching interior and some incredible carbon fibre trim to go with it.

Its G63, with its low visibility camouflage wrap, was appropriately dubbed 'Star Trooper'. Created in conjunction with car loving German designer Philipp Plein, it packed 838bhp and 730lb ft of torque, and will be made in a limited run of 20.

Top Car

Based in Moscow, with offices in Marbella, Miami and Monaco, Top Car sources its carbon fibre parts and products from the very best manufacturers in all of Europe.

While it usually specialises in Porsche conversions, Top Car offers styling conversions for the Mercedes GLC, GLE and the old and new G-Class. The first example of its conversion for the latter was making its world premier in Geneva as a full body styling kit with visible carbon fibre parts and massive 23-inch forged wheels to complement the build.

Klassen

Situated near Hanover, in Germany, Klassen specialises in luxury interiors for Mercedes MPVs like the V-Class and Sprinter. It also stretches and armours limousines like the Mercedes-Maybach seen here, featuring a 360mm extension and division between the front and rear compartments.



△ The new CLA coupe certainly looks handsome.



◁ The raised Brabus used 4x2x2 axles.

▽ With 790bhp on tap: the Brabus 800 Widestar.



“Their G63 with its low visibility camouflage wrap was appropriately dubbed ‘Star Trooper’”





△ Tuner Top Car's G-Wagen featured plenty of carbon.

<| Klassen's new Maybach had been extended 360mm.

<<| The car also featured a driver privacy divide for privacy.

▽ S65 AMG Final Edition marks the end of the V12.

