

MÉGANE RENAULT SPORT

GEARED TO DRIVING PLEASURE

Mégane Renault Sport provides the agility, speed and driving pleasure of a sporting car while retaining the comfort and quietness of a grand tourer. Mégane Renault Sport, an elegant sporting thoroughbred, is an additional member of the three-door and five-door Mégane hatchback family, which includes the Hatch – voted “Car of the Year 2003”. Its engine, with high power extending over a wide speed range, is combined with a double-axis strut suspension which guarantees efficiency and precision. All the comfort and safety features of New Mégane are carried over to this sporting version, assembled at the Dieppe factory in France.



Mégane Renault Sport



Mégane Renault Sport benefits from all the experience acquired during the development of the New Mégane programme. Equally, it taps the know-how of Renault Sport in the area of sporting cars, whether for road or track, such as Clio Renault Sport 2.0 16V, the benchmark for hot hatches, and New Clio V6 255, a car dedicated to motoring passion and driving pleasure.

In 2002, almost 30,000 compact sports hatchbacks* – potential rivals for Mégane Renault Sport – were registered in Western Europe, compared with 5,300 units in 1998. Today, these sports-oriented models represent more than 1% of the market for hatchbacks, coupés and cabriolets in the C segment, compared with less than 0.2% in 1998. In 2002, the main European markets for this type of vehicle were the UK (42%), Germany (24%) and Switzerland (12%).

The beauty of the “beast”

Mégane Renault Sport retains the styling of New Mégane while adding a number of subdued, elegant sporting elements. It repeats the fundamentals of the Renault Sport design with more wrap-round bumpers, more prominent foglamps and large air-intake and outlet grilles, as well as a twin-pipe exhaust, like New Clio V6 255. Additional elements characteristic of the versions developed by Renault Sport – a discreet spoiler on the rear hatch and large-diameter 18-inch alloy wheels – contribute both to the dynamic styling and the efficiency of the car.

Inside, the modern, streamlined design of New Mégane is prominent, with sporting touches to the dashboard and the gear lever console. The pedals and the footrest also feature an aluminium finish. The steering wheel and driver's seat have multiple adjustments so that everyone can find their ideal driving position. The front seats, with their pronounced curves, have special side supports on both cushion and backrest.





Mégane Renault Sport has a host of technical features such as tyre pressure monitoring, cruise control and speed limiter, electrochromic inside rearview mirror, and automatic headlamps and wipers. Xenon headlamps, whose light output is twice that of halogen bulbs, are also available. Mégane Renault Sport is equipped with the hands-free Renault Card, an audio unit built into the fascia with four speakers distributed around the cabin, and as an option, with either of two on-board navigation systems, Carminat Guidance or Carminat Advanced Navigation.

Five special body colours specific to Mégane Renault Sport, as well as two interior colour schemes, satisfy every customer need. Following the personalization programmes developed by Renault Sport Technologies for New Clio V6 255 and Clio Renault Sport 2.0 16V, an identical approach is being considered for Mégane Renault Sport.

A powerful engine with a wide torque curve

Using as its base the turbocharged 2.0 16V engine available in the company's top-of-the-range models, Renault Sport has developed a high-performance version which remains easy to use in everyday driving. Its output of 225bhp and 300Nm of torque is achieved thanks to changes to key items such as the turbo and the engine's reciprocal components. With 90% of its maximum torque available between 2,000 and 6,000rpm, the engine provides strong and continuous power up to the highest speeds. The engine exhaust has also been developed to provide a truly pleasing note, with a special twin-outlet system.

The six-speed manual gearbox allows the engine's performance to be fully exploited while reducing fuel consumption and noise levels during long journeys.

While possessing performance of the highest order, with an acceleration time of 6.5sec to 100kph and 26.7sec to cover 1 kilometre from a standing start, Mégane Renault Sport provides excellent efficiency with fuel consumption of only 8.8 litres/100km in the combined cycle (209g of CO₂/km). The engine complies with the Euro 4 fiscal-incentive emissions standard.





Standard-setting ride and handling

Adaptability, precision and speed are the words which come to mind when describing the Mégane Renault Sport chassis. The development of a double-axis strut system guarantees precise and efficient road-going behaviour in all circumstances. Spring and damper rates have been tuned to combine driving dynamics and comfort. The braking system, powerful and fade-resistant, consists of four large-diameter discs (312mm ventilated at the front and 300mm at the rear) of significant thickness (28mm at the front and 11mm at the rear), the front brakes using 4-piston calipers. The 18-inch tyres and the variable-assistance electric power steering have been specially developed to meet the high expectations of sports hatchback drivers. In addition, driver aid systems, including latest-generation ESP with traction control and understeer control, have been adjusted to suit the sporting character of Mégane Renault Sport.

Safety first

Since safety is one of Renault's strategic objectives and a key expertise, there has been no compromise in the areas of road behaviour or occupant protection. Mégane Renault Sport is built on the same platform and is equipped with the same range of safety features which enabled New Mégane to achieve a five-star rating in the tests carried out by the independent Euro NCAP organization. Its structure consists of high tensile strength steels capable of absorbing large amounts of energy in the event of an impact.

Mégane Renault Sport is equipped with the third-generation Renault System for Restraint and Protection (SRP), which combines adaptive frontal airbags with adaptive safety belts, with double load limiters and double pretensioners for the front seats*, two side airbags protecting the thorax for the front seats and two curtain airbags. The three-door version is equipped with anti-submarining airbags within its front seats to protect against submarining and provide the same level of front occupant safety as in the five-door version. The front passenger seat and the rear side seats are fitted with Isofix attachments allowing front or rear-facing child safety seats to be installed in an optimum manner. Mégane Renault Sport has all it takes to become the benchmark in terms of safety within the sports hatchback segment.

**In the five-door version.*



The know-how of the Dieppe factory

Mégane Renault Sport is assembled at the Dieppe site in France using bodies supplied from Renault's Palencia factory in Spain. The production process is adapted to the special needs of this sporting version while guaranteeing the same quality standards achieved in volume production. The Dieppe factory is now a facility dedicated to the production of the entire range of sporting models developed by Renault Sport Technologies.

