



## Press release

# Lamborghini Gallardo LP 550-2 Valentino Balboni

### Driving fun with absolute precision

Sant'Agata Bolognese, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 - He has long been revered as one of the many legends surrounding the world's most uncompromising sports car brand - Valentino Balboni, a remarkable test driver with his own personal cult status. Automobili Lamborghini now presents a model in his honour and bearing his name - the Gallardo LP 550-2 Valentino Balboni.

The latest version of the Gallardo, Lamborghini's most successful model of all time - overall, more than 9,000 units of the model range have already been produced - boasts not only its own distinctive design and exclusive equipment, but its technology is unique too, as indicated by the model badge: the 550 stands for the power output in hp and the 2 is for rear wheel drive.

For several decades, Valentino Balboni has had a distinct influence on the character of the super sports car bearing the sign of the bull. With his fine-tuning and testing work, he has helped to shape many automotive legends, from the Lamborghini Miura of the 60s through to the current Gallardo and Murciélago models. Balboni was hired in 1967 by company founder Ferruccio Lamborghini himself. From early on, it was evident that the young Balboni had a special feel for cars, that most sensitive of all instincts that connects to the 'life blood' of an automobile and defines the soul of a test driver.

"A Lamborghini must always combine the precision of a race car with the reliability of a good friend," says Balboni. Since 1973, he has sat at the wheel of every prototype built by the brand, and even most production cars have passed through his hands before being delivered to their customers. This has turned Balboni into one of the most important representatives of the brand, with an outstanding reputation and status among the brand's fans and customers worldwide.

### Limited to 250 units

After over 40 years with Lamborghini, Balboni is now officially retired. Yet, Valentino Balboni continues to travel to many countries around the world as an ambassador of the brand.

The special exclusivity of the Gallardo LP 550-2 Valentino Balboni is guaranteed - it is limited to 250 units.

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### **Light-footed yet extremely safe**

With this latest version of the Gallardo, Lamborghini is honouring its long-standing test driver in a very special way. The LP 550-2 Valentino Balboni was conceived in line with his own thinking, and it meets many customers' requests for a model with a unique character, which offers a very special kind of active driving fun. The Balboni model is the only current Lamborghini that delivers its power to the road via its rear wheels alone.

Rear wheel drive has a special appeal to those sports car drivers who enjoy a particular driving style. Thanks to the eminently powerful V10 driveline, controlled oversteer is no problem - naturally always to the extent defined by the driver - because refined road manners and perfectly tuned assistance systems mean that the Gallardo LP 550-2 Valentino Balboni is an exceptionally safe sports car to drive.

### **Driving fun with unique character**

In order to shape this unique character that combines driving fun and safety, the engineers at Sant'Agata Bolognese have incorporated extensive modifications into the LP 550-2 Valentino Balboni. It was not simply a question of moving the transmission to the rear axle, the vehicle had to be adjusted and tuned in every element of its driving dynamics. This includes springs, dampers, stabilisers and even the tyres. The aerodynamics were also adjusted to take account of the change to the power flow.

The rear axle differential, with a 45 percent limited slip, was also redeveloped, as was the calibration of the e-gear transmission. One significant point was the adjustments made to the ESP system. While the standard program is focused on high stability, the CORSA program permits greater drift angles, thus enabling drivers to enjoy the dynamics of the LP 550-2 to their full extent.

### **Outstanding performance is guaranteed**

Adjustments have also been made to the very heart of the Gallardo, the 5.2 litre ten-cylinder: the perfect synthesis of hi-revving pleasure, pulling power, a constantly exuberant temperament and a powerful symphony played in all keys. In the Valentino Balboni, the compact and lightweight power unit generates 405 kW (550 hp). At a dry weight of only 1,380 kilograms, this guarantees outstanding performance: the LP 550-2 is catapulted from 0 to 100 km/h (0-62mph) in a breathtaking 3.9 seconds, while the top speed of 320 km/h (199 mph) guarantees its place among the ultimate in super sports cars.



## **Powerful elegance in its distinctive design**

The Valentino Balboni is not only unique in terms of its technology: its design and equipment reinforce its exclusivity. Its classic sporting character is emphasised by a colour strip in white and gold running from the front panel over the roof and parts of the engine cover all the way to the rear spoiler, with inspiration from the classic sports cars from the '70s. This colour treatment underscores the powerful elegance of the Gallardo and emphasises the unique Lamborghini design DNA. The Special Edition is available in eight colours, from Bianco Monocerus through to Verde Ithaca, or Arancio Borealis to Nero Noctis. The Scorpius wheels retain their dark grey finish, while the brake callipers come in black, orange or yellow, depending on the exterior paint finish.

## **Classic sporting look for the interior, too**

The characteristic colour combination is repeated in the interior. The basic colour of the full leather upholstery is black. Both seats, however, feature the colour strip in white. The centre console is completely upholstered in Polar white leather to create a powerful accent. A badge below the left side window bears the signature of Valentino Balboni and the production number of the car.

The exclusivity of the Valentino Balboni is augmented further by its extensive equipment. Alongside several new leather features in the interior, there is also the transparent engine cover, the rear view camera, the navigation system with Bluetooth and the lifting system for the front axle that makes it easier to drive over obstacles. In addition to the extensive standard equipment, a list of further options is available including e-gear transmission and carbon ceramic brakes.

## **Suggested retail price - without taxes**

Europe:  
162.000 €

UK:  
137.900 £

USA:  
219.800 \$



## Technical data - Gallardo LP550-2 Valentino Balboni

### Frame & Body

Frame	Structural aluminum space frame, based on aluminum extruded parts welded to aluminum-cast joint elements
Body	Aluminum with thermoplastic "hang on" parts
Rear Spoiler	Electronically controlled
Mirrors	External mirror with electrical closing system
Suspension	Aluminium double wishbones front and rear suspension system, anti-roll bar, anti-dive and anti-squat
ESP 8.0	Full ESP System with ABS, ASR and ABD

### Airbags

Front	Front Dual-Stage driver and passenger airbags, side Head-thorax airbags
Tires (front/rear)	Pirelli Pzero 235/35 ZR 19 - 295/30 ZR 19
Wheels (front/rear)	Aluminum alloy, 8.5" x Ø 19"- 11" x Ø 19"
Steering	Power-assisted rack and pinion
Curb-to-Curb turning circle	11.50 m (37.73 ft)

### Brakes

Steel brakes	Power vacuum, aluminum alloy calipers: 8 cylinder front calipers and 4 cylinder rear calipers Ventilated discs (front-rear) Ø 14.37 x 1.34 in front -Ø 14 x 1.26 in rear
CCB brakes	Power vacuum, aluminum alloy calipers: 6 cylinder front calipers and 4 cylinder rear calipers Ventilated discs (front-rear) Ø 15 x 1.5 in front -Ø 14 x 1.26 in rear

### Motor

Type	10 cylinders V90°, DOHC 4 valves, common-pin crankshaft
Displacement	5.2 l
Compression ratio	12.5:1
Maximum power	550 hp at 8,000 rpm
Maximum torque	540 Nm (398 lb-ft) at 6,500 rpm
Engine management system	Bosch MED 9
Cooling system	Engine and gearbox radiator
Cooling system oil	Oil to Water cooler
Cooling system water	Two water radiators
Emission control system	Catalytic converters with lambda sensors
Lubrication system	Dry sump



## Drivetrain

Type of transmission	Rear Wheel drive
Gearbox	6 Speed + reverse, an optional robotized sequential e-gear system with actuation by paddles on the steering column
Clutch	Double plate $\varnothing$ 215 mm (8.46")
Rear Differential	45% limited slip

## Performance

Top speed	320 Km/h (199 mph)
Acceleration 0-100/h (0-62 mph)	3.9 sec

## Dimensions

Wheelbase	2560 mm (100.8 in)
Overall length	4345 mm (171,1 in)
Overall width	1900 mm (74.8 in)
Overall height	1165 mm (45.9 in)
Track (front/rear)	1632 mm- 1597mm (64.3 - 62.9 in)
Dry Weight	1380 Kg. (3042 lbs)
Weight distribution (front/rear)	Front 43%/rear 57%

## Capacities

Engine oil	10 litres (2,6 US gal)
Fuel tank	90 litres (23,8 US gal)
Engine coolant	20 litres (5,3 US gal)

## EU - version

### Consumption with E-Gear

Urban	20,1 l/100 Km. (14,05 mpg UK)
Extra urban	9,2 l/100 Km (30,70 mpg UK)
Combined	13,3 l/100 Km (21,24 mpg UK)
CO <sub>2</sub>	315 g/km

### Consumption with manual transmission

Urban	22 l/100 Km (12,84 mpg UK)
Extra urban	9.9 l/100 Km (28,53 mpg UK)
Combined	14,4 l/100 Km (19,62 mpg UK)
CO <sub>2</sub>	341 g/km



**US - version**

**Consumption with E.Gear**

City	14 mpg
Highway	20 mpg
Combined	16 mpg

**Consumption with manual transmission**

City	12 mpg
Highway	20 mpg
Combined	15 mpg