



Press Release

Lamborghini Gallardo LP 550-2 – a new dimension in driving fun

Automobili Lamborghini is adding a uniquely involving model to the most successful range ever to bear the badge of the bull: with its rear-wheel drive layout, the new Gallardo LP 550-2 offers exceptionally agile dynamics, whilst retaining its high level of driving safety.

“With the Gallardo LP 550-2, we are expanding the Lamborghini range with a model that intensifies driving fun even further. This appeals to a specific group of our customers, who seek an exceptionally high level of hands-on involvement with their super sportscars,” says Stephan Winkelmann, President and CEO of Automobili Lamborghini. “Our positive experience with our limited edition Valentino Balboni model shows that this special rear-wheel drive model represents the perfect addition to our portfolio of four-wheel drive super sportscars.”

The most important technical characteristics of the Lamborghini Gallardo LP 550-2 can be identified from the model name – LP stands for Longitudinale Posteriore, the longitudinal mid-engine mounted just in front of the rear axle, whilst ‘550’ refers to the output in hp/CV and the ‘2’ stands for rear-wheel drive. In its first incarnation, the new technology was deployed in the limited edition Valentino Balboni model, which was restricted to 250 units. The first Gallardo LP 550-2 vehicles will be delivered to their eager owners in China, with a base price set in Europe of 138,500 Euro plus tax.

Thus, Automobili Lamborghini is pushing forward with its clear strategy to develop a broad portfolio of unique variants for each model range. That way, every customer can select the model best suited to their individual wishes and to their own particular driving style. With this in mind, the new rear-wheel drive Gallardo LP 550-2 is the perfect complement to the permanent four-wheel drive Gallardo line-up: the Gallardo LP 560-4 Coupé, the Gallardo LP 560-4 Spyder and the recently launched and already highly successful Gallardo LP 570-4 Superleggera.

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The Gallardo, with its impressive V10 power unit, is by far the most successful model in the entire history of the Lamborghini brand. Since 2003 nearly 10,000 Gallardo models have left the production facility in Sant'Agata Bolognese: an astonishingly large number in the premier league of super sports cars.

Prior to customer handover, every single vehicle is thoroughly tested over a distance of around 60 kilometres by quality department test drivers.

This "Collaudo" is the final step in a systematic quality program at Lamborghini. It ensures that each car has been completed to exceptional quality standards that are unparalleled in the competitive world of super sportscars.

High-precision driving experience

The rear-wheel drive Lamborghini Gallardo LP 550-2 suits sportscar drivers who prefer a particularly active driving style. Thanks to the exceptionally powerful V10 engine, controlled oversteer is also very easy to achieve, although always to the degree specified by the driver. Because of its consistent handling characteristics, and the ESP assistance system specifically redeveloped for this vehicle, the Gallardo LP 550-2 is one of the most outstandingly safe sportscars available.

Chassis, driveline and engine systematically redeveloped

While the front axle steers with the highest precision levels, the new chassis set-up consistently and reliably maintains the stability of the rear, thus limiting body rolling and pitching to an absolute minimum. In order to shape a unique character combination of driving fun and safety, engineers in Sant'Agata Bolognese carried out extensive modifications to the LP 550-2. It was not simply a matter of focusing on changes to the rear axle: the car's entire dynamic set-up has been changed, including springs, dampers, stabilisers and tyres. Aerodynamics were also adjusted to take into account the new power distribution.

The rear axle differential, with a locking effect of up to 45 per cent limited slip, guarantees the perfect transition of torque. This, in conjunction with the modified ESP calibration, provides perfect driving dynamics. While stability remains the standard program's main focus, the CORSA program permits greater drift angles and enables the Gallardo LP 550-2's full dynamic range to be fully appreciated.



Total connection with the road

The standard Gallardo's main features are carried over, together with the model's excellent directional stability at high speeds. The aluminium spaceframe chassis is uncompromisingly hi-tech. All four wheels run on aluminium double wishbones with specific kinematics in the front and the rear, which further aids the super sports car's excellent handling.

The rubber-metal bearings are further hi-tech elements, supporting Lamborghini's distinctive handling characteristics. The rack-and-pinion steering gives the driver a close connection with the road, delivering an intense appreciation of dynamic forces and momentum. Precise, breathtakingly fast, yet safe and reliable – the Gallardo LP 550-2 truly allows the driver to experience its full dynamic capability. The tyres – 235/35 ZR 19 front and 295/30 ZR 19 rear – almost seem to mesh with the road surface. They come from the Pirelli P Zero series and were developed specifically for Lamborghini LP 550-2, featuring extremely low rolling resistance and thus playing a role in reducing fuel consumption.

Outstanding performance is guaranteed

The heart of the Gallardo has also been retuned, and its characteristics optimised for rear-wheel drive: the 5.2 litre ten-cylinder is the perfect and breathtaking synthesis of spirited high-revving, pulling power, effervescent temperament and powerful harmony. In the LP 550-2, the compact and lightweight power unit generates 405 kW (550 hp/CV). With a dry weight of only 1,380 kilograms, this guarantees amazing performance. The LP 550-2 shoots from 0 to 100 km/h (0-62mph) in only 3.9 seconds. The top speed of 320 km/h ensures it has a place among the ultimate sports cars.

The engine's displacement of 5,204 cm³ boasts, alongside the extreme specific output of 105.7 CV/litre, a maximum of 540 Nm of torque which is sent to the crankshaft at 6,500 rpm. The ample torque curve ensures outstanding pulling power throughout the rev range. With a cylinder angle of 90 degrees, the power unit is unusually wide for a V10. The advantage of this design is the low centre of gravity. The dry sump lubrication serves the same purpose, while also ensuring reliable oil supply, even under heavy lateral acceleration on the race track.



Direct injection promotes efficient combustion

The V10 uses petrol direct injection “Iniezione Diretta Stratificata” as an innovative means to achieve optimum performance versus moderate fuel consumption. The fuel is injected directly into the combustion chambers through nozzles positioned sideways on the cylinder head. This facilitates optimum swirl and highly efficient combustion. Direct injection supports the excellent performance of the V10 under full load, reduces knocking tendencies and thus enables the very high compression ratio of 12.5:1.

The cylinder heads are optimised for high volumetric efficiency, with variable valve control on all four camshafts improving cylinder charge across the entire rev range.

Powerful elegance in a unique design

The Gallardo LP 550-2 is technically unique among the Lamborghini range; its design and equipment confirm its exceptional status. The LP 550-2 is, like every Lamborghini, a high-performance athlete: it offers precision and unadulterated performance together with elegance and pure power. With each new *automobile*, Centro Stile takes the Lamborghini brand’s DNA to the next level. The Gallardo LP 550-2 also displays the precise lines and clean surfaces of a minimalist design.

Perfect quality from the first ‘pen-stroke’

The state-of-the-art and largely digitised design process is the first step in the consistent quality strategy of Automobili Lamborghini. Every single part is designed and built to ensure not only absolute functional accuracy, but also perfection in all aspects of fit and finish. This is evident in every detail, in its materials and in the precision of its workmanship. The Lamborghini production system combines the very latest equipment with the master craftsmanship of its experts to guarantee manufacturing quality at the very highest levels. Moreover, every Lamborghini is designed for performance over extensive use – something that many customers value daily.



Fit for both the racetrack and everyday driving

Lamborghini has given the Gallardo LP 550-2 a generous and sporty equipment level as standard. Driver, passenger and side/thorax airbags are fitted, as well as two-zone adjustable climate control, radio, TFT display and USB/iPod interface. Seats in fine leather upholstery include electrically adjustable backrests. The LP 550-2 is provided with bi-xenon headlamps with LED daytime running lights. The wheels sport the Apollo double-spoke design and the brake callipers have a black finish.

Key optional equipment, from a technical standpoint, includes the automated e-gear transmission with its lightening-quick shift times, and the carbon-ceramic brake system, which weighs less, yet delivers incredible performance.

Further options add to the comfort levels – these include a navigation system, a Bluetooth hands-free system, an anti-theft warning system and a rear view camera. Also available as an option is the Lifting System (front axle height control), which clears obstacles by raising the front at the touch of a button. The polished Cordelia cross-spoke rims or the Callisto Y-spoke rims in silver, titanium or high-gloss black round off the package. Finally, the transparent engine cover puts the powerful heart of the Gallardo LP 550-2 on show.

The possibilities presented by the “Ad Personam” individualisation program are virtually inexhaustible. A supersports car is a powerful expression of its owner’s personality, and should fit perfectly with their ideas and desires. The highest level of exclusivity is the trademark of Lamborghini’s individualisation program. “Think the impossible” is the motto. “Ad Personam” offers a host of options enabling buyers to add their own particular style both to the interior and exterior of their Lamborghini.. One new program highlight is the range of matt-lustre paint finishes, which express the clear and purist precision of Lamborghini design particularly well.



New – Accessori Originali Lamborghini

The exclusivity of every Lamborghini can be further enhanced by an extensive range of original accessories, the Accessori Originali. Every detail has been developed in line with the brand's exacting requirements and checked against the highest standards – for design and style, as well as for quality and workmanship. With the products from Accessori Originali, every customer can personalize their vehicle in accordance with their preferences, while retaining the unique and distinct character of a Lamborghini. The extensive range includes items like a car-care set or a variety of car covers to protect the vehicle, personalized control panels or valve caps bearing the Lamborghini logo.

The latest product to be developed by Lamborghini is conceived especially for those drivers that want to relive and analyse their performance. The set, comprising a video camera and recorder, as well as a telemetry unit, enables professional evaluation of scenarios such as racetrack laps – all incorporated into an extremely easy-to-use system.