

E V O L U T I O N

Tim gets his hands on a beautifully-specced Aventador S on an equally beautiful day at Tom Hartley to find out if it has moved the game on from the original Aventador.

Written by: Tim Hanlon

DEALER DRIVES

Aventador S
2017 (17)
3,000 miles
£289,950



Today Matt and I are heading for Tom Hartley's emporium of everything supercar and it's a glorious day, already 31 degrees with clear blue skies as we near our destination. The night before we both dutifully poured over the Hartleys' website, scrolling through what is possibly the most diverse and stunning selection of hyper and supercars available – trying to pick one to drive is going to be very hard indeed.

We arrive and what immediately makes an impact is that the new showstopper showroom situated at the entrance has popped up out of the ground at such a speedy rate. It looks fabulous allowing

at least another 20 to 25 cars to be housed under cover. We can't wait for opening day and of course the annual SCD visit.

Carl greets us whilst simultaneously juggling a transporter taking a Wraith to its new home, organising the detailers, answering his phone to a client and trying to move his grass sprinkler! Matt and I peruse the stock outside, a gargantuan six-wheeled Mansory G-Wagen is sat next to a Ford GT that could easily fit underneath it and then I spot an exquisite 991.2 Turbo S Exclusive Edition that's a carbon fest of Stuttgart excellence.

Anyway, Carl has now finished his call and we get into the

serious business of sharing grass preservation tips, "Water at night Tim, that's the trick". I can't disagree, however keeping the iconic photo lake full is a whole different battle! Okay, onto car choice. Matt is thinking the black Ferrari 430 Scuderia sat just outside the showroom doors and I think 'sod it', no harm in asking, "How's about the Huayra?". Carl diplomatically pretends he didn't hear my suggestion and says, "Guys, what about the green Aventador S?"

The Aventador has been a firm club favourite from launch and is still a poster car for so many and this one, the new S, boasts four-wheel steering

as well as all new suspension and ECU. What sets this car apart though is its very special specification, finished in Verde Hydra (green) with a combination of Nero Ade (black) Alcantara and Rosso Alala (red) interior and the same 20/21-inch Dianthus alloys as the SV.

We obviously say "yes" immediately. One thing that very few cars can compete with is the startup sound of a Lambo V12, add the fact it's in a confined space and you have pure symphony reminiscent of the F1 V12 days in the paddock.

Those iconic doors up, you can see the carbon side skirts and interior branding package which really finish things off.





The reversing camera is a must and works really well in the new virtual cockpit digital dials given how little you can see over your shoulder. Another must this car has is the front lifting system, I imagine there'd be many cringe moments without it! We are warmed up, air con on max and off to Matt's chosen destination.

Once away from the traffic, we get the chance to sample what the extra 40 horses do for the Aventador, but to be fair every Aventador drive is a blur of speed, noise and pure aggression. You can't really drive one sedately and for me, that's what differs it in character from its younger sibling, the Huracan.

We have quiet empty B roads lined with grass three or four-feet tall and the warmed up Aventador squats, gargles and thrusts itself down the hot tarmac, sucking in the grass behind in a wave only a two-metre wide supercar can on a four-metre wide road.



Matt says "Here" in an affirmative way that means his camera eye has just seen 'it' and I bring the play to a halt. We marvel at the car's stance in this unique and amazing colour as it sits roadside, menacing with a heat haze coming off its body like a real Sant'Agata bull ready to charge. The styling has aged beautifully, further enhanced by the S facelift. It's a classic in the making and the colour of this example only enhances the look in a 'subtle but not subtle' way.

Matt's shutter is doing overtime as we fight pesky horseflies and tractors. Shoot done, we head back to Tom Hartley and select Corsa mode which is where this epic car seems to find its sweet spot for gear-change and throttle response. This refreshed model feels more planted, sharp and more eager than earlier models and it's a horizon defying car that hurls you forward relentlessly. We both agree we would love to take this car on a Euro tour as it would be in its element blasting Autostrade and deafening Fiat 500 drivers in tunnels.

Back at the showroom, Carl is concluding a deal on a 488 Spider so Matt takes the opportunity to get some extra static shots next to the pink flowers and well-hydrated grass!

It's been a fabulous drive on a fabulous day and we look forward to our next Tom Hartley adventure when the new showroom is open for business. ●

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Rosso Corsa With Nero Alcantara
4,000m
£2,195,000



66 PAGANI HUAYRA TEMPESTA
Grigio Mercurio Metallic With Black Malvec Pagani Premium Leather
700m
£2,195,000



15 PORSCHE 918 SPYDER WEISSACH PACKAGE
Colour To Sample Pearlescent White With Garnet Red Leather
6,000m
£1,295,000



14 McLAREN P1
Volcano Yellow With Carbon Black Leather & Alcantara
1,500m
£1,295,000



17 LAMBORGHINI AVENTADOR S LP 740-4 COUPÉ
Verde Hydra With Nero Ade Alcantara With Rosso Alala
3,000m
£289,950



18 FERRARI 488 SPIDER
Nero Daytona With Nero
1,500m
£264,950



63 LAMBORGHINI AVENTADOR LP 700-4 ROADSTER
Grigio Estoque With Black Leather
4,000m
£244,950



14 FERRARI FF
Nero Daytona Metallic With Nero & Rosso Hide
6,000m
£164,950



62 FERRARI 458 ITALIA
Silver With Rosso Hide
15,000m
£149,950



61 MERCEDES-BENZ SLS AMG COUPÉ
Matte Designo Allantite Grey Magno With Classic Red Designo
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