



1987 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante Convertible

POA

Overview

Mileage 15,347 miles

Fuel Type Petrol

Engine Size 5.3 l

Bodystyle Convertible

Transmission Automatic

Exterior Colour Dover White

Previous Owners 3

Registration M6410TD



Description

The 1988 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante is a car with a fascinating blend of British craftsmanship, exclusivity, and performance, representing one of the most iconic periods in Aston Martin's history. Here's a deep dive into its story and background.

Historical Context

The 1980s marked an era of transition for Aston Martin. By this time, the company had established itself as a maker of luxury, high-performance cars, but was facing financial challenges. Despite this, Aston Martin continued to build highly bespoke and hand-crafted vehicles. The Aston Martin V8 Vantage models of the 1980s were among the most potent and distinctive cars produced by the British automaker, and the Volante (convertible) variant became a symbol of luxury and power.

The V8 Vantage: The Muscle Car of Britain

The V8 Vantage first appeared in 1977 as a hardtop coupé, designed to be a high-performance version of the standard Aston Martin V8. Sometimes referred to as "Britain's first supercar," the V8 Vantage had the raw performance to rival contemporary offerings from Ferrari and Lamborghini. It was powered by a 5.3-liter V8 engine, which, depending on configuration, could produce over 400 horsepower.

The V8 Vantage featured aggressive styling, with a prominent front air dam, side skirts, and a rear spoiler, which hinted at its powerful capabilities. Aston Martin described the V8 Vantage as being more of a "brute in a suit"—combining luxurious British elegance with serious muscle.

Volante: Open-Top Elegance

Introduced in the early 1980s, the V8 Vantage Volante was the convertible version of the V8 Vantage. It offered the same high levels of performance but added the allure of open-top motoring. The 1988 model of the V8 Vantage Volante retained the aggressive yet refined aesthetics of the coupé but allowed drivers to enjoy the visceral experience of hearing the thunderous V8 engine with the top down.

One of the distinctive features of the Volante was its widened wheel arches and low, aggressive stance. The car looked imposing on the road, combining elegance and menace in a way that was uniquely Aston Martin. These cars were hand-built and highly customized, making each one unique to its owner.

James Bond Connection

Aston Martin's association with the James Bond franchise is legendary, and the V8 Vantage (both coupé and Volante) starred in the 1987 Bond film "The Living Daylights," driven by Timothy Dalton's portrayal of the secret agent. The car featured numerous "gadgets" in the film, including skis, missiles, and a rocket booster—elements that only added to the car's mythos and association with luxury and performance.

Performance and Specifications

Engine: 5.3-liter V8

Power: Around 400 horsepower, depending on specification

Top Speed: 170 mph (approximately 274 km/h)

0-60 mph: In under 6 seconds (which was impressive for its time)

Transmission: 5-speed manual or 3-speed automatic

Weight: Around 2 tons

Despite its weight, the V8 Vantage Volante was a true performance car, offering an exhilarating driving experience with robust power delivery and excellent handling for a car of its size and era.

Limited Production and Exclusivity

One of the reasons the 1988 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante is so desirable today is its rarity. Aston Martin produced only a small number of these cars during the 1980s, making them highly sought after by collectors. Each car was built to order, often with bespoke details and finishes that catered to the preferences of individual customers.

The Volante models are especially prized because of their convertible top, combining the best of open-air motoring with high-performance dynamics. The exclusivity, hand-built craftsmanship, and connection to British automotive heritage make these cars coveted by enthusiasts around the world.

Legacy

The V8 Vantage Volante of the late 1980s was a key chapter in Aston Martin's history. It represented the marque's determination to continue producing world-class, handcrafted vehicles, even in the face of financial challenges. The car also symbolized the marriage of luxury and performance that Aston Martin is renowned for.

Today, the 1988 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante is a collector's item, celebrated for its bold design, roaring engine, and connection to the golden age of British supercars. Its combination of rarity, bespoke craftsmanship, and sheer presence on the road continues to make it a symbol of automotive excellence.

Conclusion

The 1988 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante is more than just a luxury convertible; it's a symbol of Aston Martin's ability to merge powerful performance with timeless elegance. Its place in both automotive history and pop culture, along with its scarcity and bespoke nature, ensures that it will remain an iconic classic for years to come.

Location

Classicmobilia

Braystone House, Salford Road, Aspley Giuse, Milton Keynes,
MK17 8HY

07889 805432

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