



1980 Aston Martin V8 Volante Convertible

POA

Overview

Mileage	18,500 miles
Fuel Type	Petrol
Engine Size	5.3 l
Bodystyle	Convertible
Transmission	Manual
Exterior Colour	Black
Previous Owners	4
Registration	6RAM



Description

The Aston Martin V8 Volante Lineage

The Aston Martin V8 story begins in the late 1960s, when Aston Martin sought to introduce a powerful new flagship model. The result was the DBS V8, launched in 1969 with a bespoke 5.3-litre V8 engine. This new engine was inspired by Aston's racing experience (including lessons learned from running V8s at Le Mans in 1967) and set the tone for the brand's performance direction.

When the design evolved away from the six-cylinder DBS, the model became simply known as the Aston Martin V8 in 1972, and it remained in production until 1989 — one of Aston Martin's longest-running platforms.

Birth of the Volante Convertible (1978–1980)

A major chapter in the V8's history was the introduction of the Volante — a full-luxury convertible version — in June 1978. Aston Martin had long been associated with elegant grand tourers, but open-top luxury performance was something enthusiasts had been asking for.

Key Features of the Volante

Convertible body with a fully lined, power-operated hood

Reinforced chassis to maintain rigidity without a fixed roof

Luxury interior with burr walnut trim and thick leather upholstery

Same 5.3-litre DOHC V8 engine as the coupe models, typically with Weber carburetors in 1980 models

Offered with either a ZF 5-speed manual or 3-speed automatic gearbox

Performance was strong for the era — the Volante could still exceed 140 mph despite its convertible aerodynamics.

The 1980 Volante in Context

By 1980, the V8 Volante was well established in Aston Martin's lineup. The company was producing what was by then the fourth series of the V8 (often referred to as "Oscar India", shorthand for October Introduction), which included cosmetic updates like a re-profiled bonnet bulge, integrated rear spoiler, and richer wood interior trims.

Production was quite limited:

Only around 849 V8 Volantes were built across the early production run, including those from around 1980.

Certain examples from 1980 show the variety of customer cars that were delivered — for example:

Left-hand drive examples ordered to North American specs, often with automatic transmissions and US bumpers.

RHD UK/European cars, rarer and generally more desirable among collectors.

Celebrity ownership histories highlighted on surviving vehicles (e.g., one was owned by Monty Python's Graham Chapman in the 1980s).

The Driving Experience

The Volante of 1980 encapsulated classic British GT characteristics:

A big-bore V8 engine delivering smooth torque and substantial power

Luxurious cabin appointments with extensive burr walnut and Connolly leather

Grand touring comfort — designed for long routes as much as for performance

Despite its weight and luxury, the Volante was considered fast for its class. Contemporary comparisons placed it competitively among other high-end convertibles of the time.

Craftsmanship & Rarity

Aston Martins of this era weren't mass-produced — each car required hundreds of hours of hand-assembly, typically built at Aston's Newport Pagnell works. The V8 Volante's low production numbers and craftsmanship make it a sought-after classic today.

Legacy & Collector Appeal

Today, the 1980 Aston Martin V8 Volante is cherished by collectors for several reasons:

Rarity: Only a few hundred early-series carburettor-equipped Volantes were made.

Style: A quintessential British grand tourer blending luxury and performance.

Heritage: A link between the traditional Aston grand tourers of the '60s and '70s and later modern performance models.

Provenance: Many surviving cars come with documented ownership histories and meticulous restorations.

Location

Classicmobilia

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