



1990 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante Prince of Wales Convertible

POA

Overview

Mileage	98,500 km
Fuel Type	Petrol
Engine Size	5.3 l
Bodystyle	Convertible
Transmission	Manual
Exterior Colour	Rolls Royce Balmoral Green
Previous Owners	1
Registration	POW



Description

1991 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante – “Prince of Wales” Specification

(One of the rarest Aston Martin road cars ever built)

The Prince of Wales (PoW)–spec Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante is one of the most fascinating “royal-inspired” cars ever built. A 1991 example is part of an extremely small group of hand-built cars connected to a special request by Charles III when he was still the Prince of Wales.

Although the PoW cars were originally produced between 1986 and 1989, several cars built slightly later (including around 1990–1991) were converted or completed to the same specification, which is why you may see a 1991-registered example.

The Royal Origin Story (Mid-1980s)

In the mid-1980s, the Prince of Wales wanted a new convertible Aston Martin.

However, he disliked the aggressive styling of the standard V8 Vantage Volante, which had:

flared wheel arches

a deep front air dam

large rear spoiler

side skirts

These were typical of the 1980s “super-muscle” Vantage look, but the Prince preferred something more elegant and understated.

So Aston Martin engineers created a special configuration:

A Vantage-performance car in the more subtle body of the standard V8 Volante.

This became known as the “Prince of Wales specification.”

The Prince’s Personal Car

The first car built was commissioned for the Prince himself after the Emir of Bahrain offered to buy him a new Aston Martin as a gift.

His car combined:

Vantage performance

Volante elegance

bespoke interior colours

Typical royal colours included:

Buckingham or Balmoral Green exterior

Magnolia leather interior

Dark green mohair roof

These colours became iconic for PoW cars.

Extremely Rare Production

The Prince’s request inspired a tiny production run.

Total PoW specification cars built:

27 cars in total

22 right-hand drive (UK)

5 left-hand drive (North America)

Many collectors consider them the most desirable versions of the classic Aston Martin V8 Volante.

Because each car was hand-built at the Newport Pagnell factory, no two cars are exactly identical.

What Made the PoW Vantage Volante Special

1. Subtle Bodywork

Compared with a normal Vantage Volante, PoW cars:

removed the wide arches

removed side skirts

removed the large rear spoiler

kept the classic open mesh grille

The result looked like a standard V8 Volante but hid much greater performance.

2. High-Performance Vantage Engine

Under the bonnet was still the powerful Vantage "X-Pack" V8, typically producing:

about 410–435 hp

0–60 mph around 5 seconds

top speed around 170–175 mph

For the late 1980s, this made it one of the fastest convertibles in the world.

3. Hand-Built Craftsmanship

Each car featured:

bespoke leather interiors

wood veneer dashboards

manual ZF 5-speed gearbox

hand-trimmed roofs and carpets

Like most Aston Martins of the era, production was slow and highly artisanal.

Collectability Today

Because only 27 were built, the PoW Vantage Volante is:

rarer than many Ferraris of the era

one of the most sought-after classic Aston Martins

strongly associated with the British royal family

Examples regularly sell for six-figure sums, depending on provenance and condition.

Why collectors love it

royal origin story

extremely low production numbers

subtle “sleeper” design

classic hand-built Aston Martin engineering

Interesting historical note:

The Prince later sold his own original PoW car in 1995, and the proceeds went to The Prince’s Trust charity.

Location

Classicmobilia

Old Farm Park, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK7 8RE

07889 805432

Monday	Appointment only	Tuesday	Appointment only
Wednesday	Appointment only	Thursday	Appointment only
Friday	Appointment only	Saturday	Appointment only
Sunday	Appointment only		
