



1987 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Zagato Coupe Coupe

£195,000

Overview

Mileage	52,400 km
Fuel Type	Petrol
Engine Size	5.3 l
Bodystyle	Coupe
Transmission	Automatic
Exterior Colour	British Racing Green
Previous Owners	2
Registration	AMZ1



Description

The 1987 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Zagato Coupé is one of the most fascinating collaborations between a British sports-car manufacturer and an Italian coach-builder. It blends Aston Martin engineering with the distinctive styling of the Milanese design house Zagato, creating one of the most controversial yet collectible Aston Martins of the 1980s.

Origins of the Car

The project was born during the mid-1980s when Aston Martin wanted a dramatic limited-edition version of its V8 flagship. The company partnered with Zagato, the Italian coach-builder that had already created the legendary DB4 GT Zagato in the 1960s.

The goal was simple:

Produce a lighter, faster, more exclusive V8 Vantage

Create a modern interpretation of the DB4 GT Zagato

Build it in very small numbers for collectors

The car debuted at the 1986 Geneva Motor Show, immediately drawing attention even before customers had seen the final production model.

Remarkably, all production cars were effectively sold before they were built.

Design & Construction

The Vantage Zagato wasn't simply a cosmetic version of the standard V8. It involved a complex cross-border production process:

Rolling chassis built in Newport Pagnell, England

Sent to Zagato in Milan

Zagato craftsmen hand-formed aluminium body panels

Interior trimmed and body painted

Completed cars shipped back to Aston Martin for final preparation and delivery

Styling

Designed by Giuseppe Mittino, the car featured:

Sharp, angular 1980s styling

A distinctive square grille that split opinion

A shortened wheelbase and lighter body

A huge bonnet bulge to clear the carburettor intake system

The bold styling was controversial at the time, but today it is seen as a classic piece of 1980s supercar design.

Engine & Performance

Under the hood was Aston Martin's famous Tadek Marek-designed 5.3-litre V8.

Typical specifications included:

5.3-litre V8

~408–432 hp depending on specification

Twin Weber carburettors

5-speed ZF manual or Chrysler TorqueFlite automatic

0–60 mph in about 4.9 seconds

Top speed around 186 mph

For the late 1980s, these numbers placed it firmly in supercar territory, competing with Ferrari and Lamborghini of the era.

Ultra-Limited Production

The V8 Vantage Zagato was deliberately rare.

Production numbers:

52 Coupés

37 Volante (convertible) versions

Built between 1986–1990

The coupé version like the 1987 model is usually considered the purest and most desirable because it retained the full high-performance Vantage engine.

The 1980s Supercar Boom

Timing played a huge role in the car's legend.

When the car was announced:

Price: about £87,000 in the mid-1980s

Buyers paid £15,000 deposits immediately

All cars sold before completion

By the end of the 1980s speculative supercar market boom:

Some examples traded for £450,000 — over five times their original price.

This speculation helped cement the Zagato as a collector's investment car from day one.

Famous Owners & Cultural Status

One notable enthusiast was Rowan Atkinson, a passionate car collector.

He owned the first right-hand-drive Vantage Zagato

Later converted it into a racing car with ~482 hp

Competed in Aston Martin Owners' Club racing events

Cars like this helped give the Zagato a reputation as both a collector's piece and a genuine driver's machine.

Legacy

Today the V8 Vantage Zagato is considered:

One of the rarest 1980s Aston Martins

A key chapter in the Aston Martin–Zagato partnership

A design that perfectly represents 1980s exotic-car culture

The collaboration also paved the way for later Aston Martin Zagato models, including:

DB7 Zagato

V12 Zagato

In short:

The 1987 Aston Martin V8 Vantage Zagato Coupé was a bold Anglo-Italian supercar created during the height of the 1980s supercar boom—hand-built, extremely rare, and controversial in design, yet now one of the most collectible Aston Martins ever made.

Location

Classicmobilia

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

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