

# THE HOTTEST HATCH

**THE VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI** holds a very important place in motoring history. It's the default hot hatch – a family hatchback injected with extra power and performance to put a smile on the driver's face. It's as at home on a racetrack as it is on the school run.

The GTI is now in its seventh generation, but not all GTIs are created equal. Volkswagen has now launched an ultimate version of the GTI that pushes dynamic boundaries to a whole new level.

The Golf GTI Clubsport S is all about performance. Forget the school run – it has no rear seats, as they've been shed to save weight. The technology in the Clubsport S has been honed at the legendary



The new Volkswagen Golf GTI Clubsport S is a limited edition, super-powerful hatchback that's just set a lap record at the iconic Nürburgring racetrack.

BY PHILL TROMANS

Nürburgring racetrack in Germany, where it holds the lap record for a front-wheel drive production car. Its time of 7min 49.21 seconds around the 20.8km northern loop, or Nordschleife, was the realm of supercars just a few years ago.

We had a chance to try a Clubsport S at "the 'Ring", and we haven't stopped smiling yet. It's the most powerful Golf ever with 306 brake horsepower from its turbocharged, two-litre engine. The aerodynamics have been carefully evolved to give improved downforce through the corners, gluing the car to the surface at higher speeds. Super-sticky, semi-slick tyres also help. Around the fast, narrow and slightly terrifying Nordschleife it feels unnaturally fast and composed for a car that was originally built with shopping and passengers in mind. The result is a real barnstorming experience, all exhaust noise and exhilaration.

If you're a hot-hatch fan, this is the new poster car. You'll have to hunt for one – only 400 examples of the Golf GTI Clubsport S are being made, and they come at a premium price. But the smart money is on this ultimate GTI becoming a genuine collectors' item in the future. ♦

## 3 FACTS ABOUT THE GOLF GTI CLUBSPORT S

### EXCLUSIVE

Volkswagen will make just 400 units of the Golf GTI Clubsport S, which is the most powerful Golf ever made.

### FAST

The Clubsport S recorded a time of 7min 49.21sec around the Nürburgring Nordschleife to claim the lap record for a front-wheel drive production car. That's faster than a BMW M4 or a Lamborghini Gallardo.

### CLEVER

As well as extra power, taking it to 306 brake horsepower, the Golf GTI Clubsport S has revised suspension and aerodynamics for increased performance.