

BRISBANE DEBUT FOR CITROËN'S WILD CHILD URBAN SPORTS CAR

The Citroën C2, the wild child brother of the award-winning Citroën C3, will make its Australian debut at the Brisbane International Motor Showing (6 February 2004), heralding the availability of handful of Citroën C2 VTR cars prior to the models full availability in the Spring.

“Our original plan was to launch the Citroën C2 VTR as a full availability model in the third quarter of this year,” explains Miles Williams, General Manager of Citroën Australia. “But a small number of C2 VTRs have become available and such is the demand from customers who have heard about the car from Europe we have brought a small number into the country prior to its full Australian launch.”

Unlike other car makers that produce a performance version of their existing models by adding a few sporting items of equipment matched by under the skin mechanical changes, Citroën has produced an entirely separate model to provide the sporting counter part to the Citroën C3. This not only endows the C2 with a much stronger sporting design and performance, it also ensures exclusivity, with nothing but the performance C2 available.

“It was always intended that there is would be no performance version of the C3, explains Mr Williams. This has meant that the C3 could be designed to maximize space and height, providing it with its own uniquely attractive design and character. Freed of these family car constraints, the designers of the C2 could really go to town on producing what they call an urban sports car. The Citroën C2 has the style, inside and out, of a sports car, matched with purpose made dynamics. It was no coincidence that the first the world saw of the C2 was in its guise as Citroën's Super 1600 rally car for the Junior World Rally Championship.”

Although it sits on Citroën's "Platform One", which is shared with the C3, there are no common body panels and, with its lower roof line and shorter overhangs, along with its dynamically different styling, the Citroën C2 presents a very different character to the C3. From the 16 inch alloy wheels with the extremely low profile 45 series tyres, via the deep drawn bumpers, the Citroën C2 is designed to be a sports model from end to end.

This sporting profile continues inside because while it has a stylish dashboard derived from the Citroën C3, it has its own unique sports seats and interior fittings. The gear knob and door handles are finished in translucent plastic that is colour matched to the cloth trim used in the door panels and the side bolster sections of the standard sports seats. The centre sections of the seats use a special form of cloth similar in design to that used in top end training shoes that allows substantially more air ventilation than normal cloth.

The back seat and load area of the Citroën C2 are unique. For a start access is via a split rear hatch, which means that loading can be done in the tightest parking spaces. And there is no waste of space, the lower section of the tail gate, as well as providing a seat for loading, also has its own storage compartment built into it, which can be accessed whatever the load is in the boot, making it ideal for the tool kit and items such as windscreen cleaning items.

The top section is more than opening window, it's also pulls the standard rear parcel shelf up and out of the way when it opens. The locking mechanism is electrically operated for safety, security and ease of use.

Citroën has decided that it is better to have comfortable, flexible seat for two in the back of the C2 rather than a compromised three seat bench. So the C2 has two full size seats which can slide backwards and forwards separately to offer either more boot space or more leg room. Not only do the backs of these two seats fold forward, boosting space, they can also be flipped forward with the assistance of gas struts – another unique feature – to take the load space up to a remarkable 879 litres, a huge volume considering the overall size of the car.

But do not be fooled into thinking that compact exterior dimensions means a cramped interior. When it comes to space utilization, Citroën are the masters. Remarkably, the interior of the C2, despite being smaller in length (3.66m vs. 3.85m) and height (1.46m vs. 1.52m) than the C3 and sitting on a smaller wheelbase (2.31 m vs. 2.46), the interior of the C2 is only slightly smaller than the C3, a car which offers a larger than class average interior. For example, front elbow room is just 1 cm smaller in the C2, there is just 2 cm less headroom and even in the rear, elbow and head room are just 2 cm less. A remarkable feat in design.

As would be expected of the top of the range performance model, equipment levels are well above the class benchmark, whether it be safety with ABS brakes, four air bags and a four star rating in the NCAP awards, comfort with power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, climate control AirCon or convenience with trip computer, height and reach adjustable steering, automatic rain-sensing wipers, automatic headlights and integrated digital audio system.

Performance comes from Citroën's 1.6 litre 80 kW engine, providing a top speed in excess of 190 kmh and the ability to dispatch the dash to 100 kmh in 10.9 seconds. Combine this with light, quick steering, ultra sticky tyres and sports suspension developed by the same team that won the 2003 World Rally Championship and the result is a car that can truly be

called a sports car. Completing the drivetrain is SensoDrive, Citroën's sequential manual gearbox that blends the convenience of a gearbox that changes its own gears with the ease of use of clutch-pedal free operation or complete self-shifting mode with the performance, economy and low emissions of a manual.

"Citroën has built an enviable reputation for performance in the C2 market sector," says Miles Williams. "The car it replaces, the Citroën Saxo, has consistently been voted as the best in class, a fact recognized by the car buying public that have made it the most popular car in its class. It has also been a consistent winner in the Junior World Rally Championship, providing Sebastien Loeb with his French and Junior World titles. The Citroën C2 builds on this success and takes it to a new level."

The Citroën C2 VTR will make its Australian debut at the Brisbane International Motor Show prior to going on sale in March with a recommended retail price of \$22,990. Supply will be limited to a little over 25 cars prior to its full launch in the third quarter of 2004.

Citroën C2 VTR Technical Specification

		Citroën C2 VTR
		SensoDrive
Engine		TU5JP4
		Watercooled four cylinder engine installed transversely driving the front wheels
Bore/stroke		78.5/82
Capacity (cc)		1587
Compression ratio		11:1
Fuel injection		Multipoint Sequential
Power (kW/rpm)		83/5750
Torque (Nm/rpm)		150/4000
Gearbox		SensoDrive
Ratio/Speed in kmh per 1000 rpm	1 st	0.292/8.53
	2 nd	0.512/14.94
	3 rd	0.731/21.32
	4 th	1.057/27.64
	5 th	1.171/34.13
	reverse	0.279/8.13
Brakes		
Front, type		Ventilated Disk
Diameter/thickness (mm)		266/22
Rear, type		Disc
Diameter/thickness (mm)		247/9
Chassis		
Front suspension		MacPherson struts with coils springs and hydraulic shock absorbers. Subframe with two lower steel wishbones, anti roll bar.
Rear suspension		Flexible transverse beam, hydraulic shock absorbers, two cast iron arms. Passive rear steering effect
Anti roll bar diameter front/rear (mm)		20/ 25
Steering		Variable assistance electric power steering, rack and pinion.

Ratio/turns lock to lock	17.8:1/2.8
Wheels	6 x 15
Tyres	195/45 R16
Tyre circumference (mm)	1772
Weights (kg)	
Unladen	1055
Gross vehicle weight	1430
Gross Train Weight	1880
Tow weight – braked	565
Tow weight – unbraked	450
Performance	
Top speed (kmh)	195
0 – 1000 m (sec)	32.0
0 – 100 kmh (sec)	10.9
Fuel consumption (l/100km)	
Urban	8.3
Extra-Urban	5.2
Combined	6.3
Carbon Dioxide emissions (g/km)	
Combined	151
Dimensions (mm)	
Length	3666
Width	1659
Height	1451
Overhang, front/rear	760/591
Wheelbase	2315
Track, front/rear	1439
Turning circle kerbs/walls (m)	10.73/ ~
Front elbow room	530
Rear elbow room	530
Min boot height	560 Below Parcel Shelf
Min/max boot width	1020
Boot volume (litres)	
Rear seats up, slide back/forward, under parcel shelf	183/224
Rear seats folded forward, to parcel shelf/to the roof	535/785
Rear seats folded up forward against the front seats, to the parcel shelf/ to the roof	619/879

Equipment and Trim

S = Standard; O = Optional; D = Dealer fit option; NA = Not available

Safety and security	Citroën C2 VTR SensoDrive
ABS brakes and electronic brake force distribution and EBA	S
Airbag, Driver and Passenger	S
Airbag, Side	S
Audible warnings for lights on and key in the ignition	S

Automatic fuel cut-off	S
Boot and Door lock, automatic activation over 10 kmh	S
Boot lock, remote electric	S
Coded engine immobiliser with transponder	S
Fog lights, front	S
Fog lights, rear	S
Harzard lights with auto activation	S
Height adjustable headlights	S
Height adjustable seatbelts, front & rear	S
Lights, automatic	S
Pollen Filter	S
Pyrotechnic pretensioners and seat belt grabbers	S
Rear window wash/wipe	S
Side impact protection panels	S
Wipers, rain-sensing	S
External/Mechanical	Citroën C2 VTR SensoDrive
AirCon, Type	Climate Control
Alloy wheels, 16 inch, Leopard Design	S
Ashtray, front and rear	S
Audio system, CD with six speakers	S
Bumper extensions, front, colour matched	S
Bumpers, side strips, colour matched	S
Central locking, remote	S
Cigarette lighter	S
Dashboard tray, sliding	S
Dipping rear view mirror	S
Door inserts, cloth	S
Door mirror, twin electric.	S
Driver's and front passenger seat, height adjustable	S
Driver's foot rest	S
Electric windows, front with anti-pinch and one touch	S
Exterior temperature gauge	S
Gear knob, door handles, translucent	S
Glove boxes, two, lower lockable	S
Grille colour	Body coloured with Black, Red and Blue Grey with Steel, yellow and Lilac
Headrests, front, height adjustable	S
Heated rear window	S
Interior lights, self dimming	S
Internal	Citroën C2 VTR SensoDrive
Audio system, CD, AM-FM radio, remote controls	S
Maintenance indicator	S
Oil level indicator	S
Pollen filter	S
Power socket, 12 volt	S
Power steering, electric speed variable	S
Rear seat, two sliding, folding seats with head rests	S
Rear wing, colour matched	S
Seats, front, sport	S
Side Skirts, colour matched	S
Steering wheel, height and reach adjustable	S
Steering Wheel, Leather rim	S
Storage pockets, door, 4	S
Storage pockets, rear, 2	S
Tail gate handle	S
Tailgate, split opening with storage are in lower section	S
Tailpipe, chrome finish	S

Upholstery type	Sports upholstery in contrasting colours
Vanity mirror	S
Windows, Tinted	S
Windscreen wipers, rain sensor	S
Instruments	Citroën C2 VTR SensoDrive
Adjustable illumination for instruments	S
Adjustable night illumination for switches	S
Battery charge light	S
Centralized warning system and audible alarm	S
Digital water temp.	S
Doors open warning light	S
Engine self test warning light	S
Fuel gauge with minimum warning light	S
Headlight indicator	S
LCD clock and date display	S
Maintenance indicator	S
Oil warning light, level	S
Oil warning light, pressure	S
Rear/Rear fog light indicator	S
Rev counter	S
Trip computer	S
Twin readout trip meter	S
Water temperature light	S