

Sardinian Splendour: THE FERRARI ROMA SPIDER EXPERIENCE

The thrill of the serpentine, coastline roads, the scent of the Mediterranean breeze, and the roar of a *Ferrari's* engine – these are the ingredients that make for an unforgettable luxury driving experience. In Sardinia, Italy, the enchanting island known for its crystalline waters and rugged landscapes, *L'Officiel Hommes Austria* embarked on a journey of a lifetime, test-driving the new *Ferrari Roma Spider*.

By ANNA ZNAMENSKY



As the sun began to dance on the emerald waters of Sardinia, the Ferrari Roma Spider awaited our eager touch. It stood there, a masterpiece of design, with sculpted lines that effortlessly blend power and elegance. Our model of choice comes in a beautiful baby blue: a true epitome of understated luxury – an approach that Ferrari looks to delve deeper into with the launch of this new model.



There's a novel and modern take on the soft-top design that underlines the Ferrari Roma Spider's exuberant character, with extensive personalisation options that include sophisticated, bespoke fabrics and contrasting stitching.

Its innovation comes in the form of a retractable soft top, an engineering marvel, that flawlessly transforms the new, soft top coupe into a breathtaking open-top, revealing its true soul to the world. It not only adds to the car's aesthetics but also enhances its aerodynamics, maintaining the sleek lines even when the top is down. Featuring special bespoke fabric in numerous tailored options, the soft top, boasting acoustic comfort on a par with retractable hard tops, can be opened in just 13.5 seconds at speeds up to 60 km/h. For all those, who are disturbed by the wind factor that inevitably comes into play when driving a convertible, be assured that top-down driving comfort is ensured by a patented wind deflector that is integrated into the rear seat backrest. We can testify, first-hand, that the wind deflector does its job more than perfectly: a true feat!



The cabin is an embodiment of Italian luxury, with sumptuous leather and carbon fibre accents that exude sophistication. Our favourite element within the cabin is undoubtedly Ferrari's signature steering wheel, reminiscent of a video game joy stick ensuring that every control is at your fingertips, designed for ultimate control and comfort during high-speed drives along Sardinia's winding roads. The Roma Spider's exceptional and precise steering responds to every whim, making it an absolute joy to drive. Moreover, the wheel is deliciously garnished with the cherry on top: the famous "Manettino" dial. The Manettino, meaning "little switch" in Italian, allows the driver to seamlessly adjust the vehicle's electronic systems to optimise for road conditions or driver preference. First designed by Frank Stephenson, the Manettino takes the driver from comfort mode all the way to ESC-OFF Mode – a setting designated for expert drivers only. This driving mode disables the car's Electronic Stability Control system entirely!



Our journey took us along the serpentine coastline roads of Sardinia, a paradise for driving enthusiasts. These roads offer a breathtaking view of the Mediterranean Sea on one side and the rugged Sardinian landscape on the other. Hairpin turns, dramatic cliffs, and pristine beaches forming a picturesque backdrop for our romp with the Roma Spider. On our journey, we drove through quaint, small Italian towns and were met with cries of “Bellissima” from onlookers standing by the side of the road at every twist and turn.

The Ferrari’s engine, a 3.9-liter V8 masterpiece, roared with life as we navigated these twists and turns. Yet Ferrari has a new philosophy that goes hand in hand with its new approach to understated luxury, when it comes to sound. In order to avoid so-called noise pollution, Ferrari has found a way to direct the sound of the engine, into the cockpit, allowing the driver to enjoy the finely-tuned orchestra playing the symphony of engine sound performance privately, without disturbing those on the exterior. Once the soft top was in place, in order to shield us from the

burning rays of the Italian, midday summer sun, as we cruised along the Sardinian coast, we couldn’t help but marvel at the ingenuity of the soft top’s engineering. The noise insulation was impressive, even at high speeds, and ensured that the sound of the engine remained the primary melody on our journey.

Our test drive of the Ferrari Roma Spider in the breathtaking landscapes of Sardinia was nothing short of a luxurious adventure, from the serpentine coastal roads that offered exhilaration at every turn to the innovative soft top that seamlessly transformed the car into a convertible masterpiece, this journey was a testament to Ferrari’s relentless pursuit of perfection.

As we savoured the thrill of this open-air driving experience, it was impossible not to be swept away by the beauty of Sardinia’s coastline and the unadulterated power and elegance of the Ferrari Roma Spider. It’s a symphony of Italian craftsmanship, performance, and innovation, a luxury experience that left an indelible mark on our hearts and souls, a testament to the enduring allure of a true Ferrari.

