

Hats off to Audi!



by Barbara Schaffer



Photos: Audi

The attractive but conservative styling of the A4 Cabriolet features clean and taut surfaces that surround flaring wheel arches. To create a family resemblance, it has a chrome-trimmed grille and chrome exhaust pipes. Brushed aluminum trim around the windshield and waist punctuates the elegant design. The cabriolet is about 20 millimeters (just under an inch) lower than the sedan, giving this droptop a sportier look.

Mechanical

The A4 cabriolet is powered by an impressive 3.0-liter V-6 aluminum engine that produces 220 horsepower at 6300 rpm and 221 lbs. ft. of torque at 3200. With an electronically limited top speed of 130 mph, the manufacturer claims acceleration from 0-60 mph in a mere 7.5 seconds. The engine is paired with a breakthrough Multitronic™ Continuously

Variable Transmission (CVT) for truly seamless shifts.

A 1.8-liter four-cylinder turbocharged engine will also be available next year.

Comfort

The A4 offered much comfort for two front seat occupants with the top both up and down (it is amazingly quiet even with the top down). Our vehicle came with the optional windscreen that did a great job in keeping us from getting too windblown and helped eliminate wind noise.

While at a red light, we engaged the top button and put it completely up before the light turned green, an elapsed time of about 24 seconds.

Usually I think convertibles look better with the top down, however, I was quite surprised how good this Audi looks with the top up, and how amazingly tight the top fits... which aids interior quietness and ensures four-season comfort. But

being in Arizona on a beautiful fall day, we did not keep the top up for very long. Another red light and another 24 seconds and we were back to styling.

Price Range

The A4 3.0 comes standard with leather seating surfaces, a fully automatic dual-zone climate control system, electronic cruise control, power central locking system, power windows and power outside mirrors (with automatic heating when outside temperature is less than 59 degrees). It also has a standard AM/FM stereo with in-dash six-disc CD changer, 12-way sporty power front seats including power lumbar, genuine wood trim, three-spoke leather wrapped sport steering wheel with Tiptronic shift controls, leather covered shift knob and hand brake handle and so much more... for a base price of \$41,500. The 1.8 turbo cabriolet version starts at \$35,000. ■

