

SPECIFICATIONS

SEATING2+2
ENGINE / DRIVE ...front mid-mounted all-alloy quad OHC 48v 5.2L twin-turbo V12 / RWD
TRANSMISSIONrear mid-mounted ZF 8-speed automatic with electronic shift-by-wire control system
HORSEPOWER/TORQUE600 hp / 516 lb-ft
ZERO-TO-100 KM/H (62 MPH)3.9 sec
TOP SPEED200 mph
SUSPENSIONF: indep double wishbone, coils, anti-roll bar, adaptive dampers; R: multi-link, coils, anti-roll bar, adaptive dampers; Three-stage adaptive damping; GT, sport, sport+
STEERINGelec power rack & pinion
WHEELS20" 10-spoke silver w/ diamond turned finish
TIRES ..F: 9x20 Bridgestone S007 255/40ZR20 R: 11x10 Bridgestone S007 295/35ZR20
BRAKESvented steel brake discs: F: 2-piece Ø400x36mm 6-piston calipers; R: co-cast Ø360x32mm 4-piston calipers;
LENGTH / WHEELBASE186.6 in / 110.4 in
CARGO VOLUME9.5 cu.ft
WEIGHT / DISTRIB3902 lb / 51/49% F/R
FUEL TANK20.5 gal
MPG15/21/17 (city/hwy/comb) (Gas guzzler tax exempt)

INCLUDES: Strathmore leather, alcantara headliner, satin silver jewellery pack, heated 3-position memory power front seats and powerfold side mirrors, front and rear parking sensors, 360° birds-eye camera, cruise control and speed limiter, alarm and immobilizer, remote central door locking and trunk release, automatic dual zone climate, keyless entry/start, heated rear window, chrome side strakes and tailpipe trim, graphite splitter, diffuser and sills, dark anodized brake calipers, body colored roof strake, body colored painted roof panel, bright exterior finisher pack, black hood meshes, 12-sensor parking control incl parallel & bay park assist.

INSTRUMENTS/INFOTAINMENT: All-new system devel w/ Daimler AG incl rotary control, optional touchpad, full 12" TFT cluster screen, 8" TFT infotainment display (plus info in main cluster), console capacitive switches w/ audible and haptic feedback, 400-watt audio, USB playback, Bluetooth audio/phone streaming, AM/FM/satellite, iPod/iPhone, Wi-Fi hub.

BASE PRICE\$211,995

AVAILABLE OPTIONS INCLUDE: Duotone Caithness or Balmoral leather, Nexus quilting, embroidered or embossed headrests, power seat bolsters, vented seats, heavy pile floor mats, wood or carbon fiber inlays, optional jewelry packs & seatbelt colors, color-keyed steering wheel, 700-watt Dolby audio, 1000-watt Bang & Olufsen audio, power armrest, Cobra tracking, touch control, personalized sill plaques, gloss black splitter, diffuser, sills, roof, under-hood jewelry pack, V12 badges, wheel options, brake caliper colors.

"WELL EQUIPPED" (Edmunds.com)\$240,132

Handcrafted personal supercar

BY DAVE STALL

When I received the invitation from Aston Martin to test drive the 2017 DB11, I had to sit down for a moment, gather my thoughts, get my bearings. I mean, I'm invited to an Aston Martin test drive, and in *that* car! If you're a gearhead, you get it. The rest of you—just bear with me.

The press event was held in San Diego, home of perfect weather and wonderful back roads on which to stretch the legs of a handbuilt supercar that you can become one with (with very little effort, I might add). Did I mention the drive was from the Valencia Resort in Rancho Santa Fe to Borrego Springs for lunch? It's my lucky day to be invited on this test drive. When

I finally got a grip, I responded with an enthusiastic yes.

If you have ever had the pleasure of driving out to Borrego Springs in San Diego County's back country for a day, there is no way not to enjoy it. Any driver or passenger is going to be giggling like a child over the mix of switchbacks and straightaways. This is a route that drivers in the know want to keep a secret, but can't. Doing this cruise in the DB11, there was nothing like coming down the mountain with 12 perfectly tuned cylinders singing from specially tuned exhaust pipes and an amazing transmission harnessing all this power.

But I think I got ahead of myself a little.

There's that gorgeous hand-stitched leather interior. One person at the factory hand stitches the complete interior of each DB11. An engineer on the press event pointed out that if you had a good eye, you could tell the left-handed from the right-handed sewers. The entire interior impresses. There's versatility in the steering wheel, from its own black (or optionally color-keyed) leather, to a powered "up and away" function for easy ingress and egress, to the speed-sensitive rack-and-pinion electric steering itself. Three driver-selectable dynamic drive modes also get your attention—GT, Sport and Sport Plus. The power adjustable front seats hold you with comfort and control, and power seat bolsters are an available option. And of course, what would a luxury car be without these seats being both heated and cooled.

Inside the DB11 while cruising around San Diego, I couldn't help but admire the sumptuous natural materials, the highest levels of craftsmanship and state-of-the-art climate control and infotainment tech-



The Aston Martin DB11 has a 5204cc all-alloy quad overhead cam, 48 valve, 5.2-liter twin-turbo V12 charge cooling front mid-mounted engine, a compression ratio of 9.2:1, dual variable camshaft timing, knock-sensing, fully CNC machined combustion chambers, intelligent bank activation, infinitely variable electronic turbo wastegate control, electrically controlled exhaust, fully catalyzed stainless steel exhaust system with cross pipes, and rear-wheel drive. The car's 600 hp equal 115 hp/liter at 6500rpm.





nology. The DB11's interior is the ultimate in comfort and convenience. The interior can be customized to be perfectly in tune with your unique style, thanks to an inspiring palette of colors and a vast array of detailing options. You just don't want to leave.

A full-color 12-inch LCD display presents primary vehicle information with absolute clarity, while a second centrally-mounted 8-inch screen is dedicated to infotainment. The new satellite navigation and audio system (Aston Martin Premium Audio or Bang & Olufsen BeoSound system upgrades are available) have never been easier to operate, and cell phone connection is a snap.

On the beautifully designed exterior, the extruded bonded aluminum body structure, including Hot Form Quenched (HFQ) aluminum, gives the DB11 a rigid yet maneuverable feel. Door openings are larger than last year's model, and headroom for the front cabin occupants has increased 10 mm, while rear passengers enjoy 54 mm more headroom and 87 mm more legroom than last year. With these changes, Aston Martin has morphed its 2017 DB11 into a true 2 + 2. There will be no complaining from the back seats (which also include integrated ISOFIX mounting points for child seats).

Aston Martin engineers ensured that DB11 is a thrill for all your senses by hand building a new twin-turbocharged 5.2-litre V12 engine. Boasting 600 brake horsepower and 700 pound-feet of torque, it makes DB11 the most powerful DB production model in Aston Martin's history. The DB11 has race-winning acceleration (0-60 miles per hour in 3.9 seconds) and a top speed of 200 miles per hour. It runs on premium gas, but when you're enjoying a car this much, who cares?

Sometimes it's the little things, too. I was impressed with a few of the items that come with the DB11 standard—an umbrella, a premium smoker kit, and a first aid kit, just to name a few.

I have been in a lot of cars and on a lot of press events over the years, but I must say my time with the 2017 Aston Martin DB11 made me see how owning this car would show the world that you've reached the pinnacle of your personal success ladder. This is truly a driver's car, with enough class and style to make anyone proud to drive this to anywhere from Walmart to the Hotel Del Coronado.

Did I mention how stunning the Aston Martin DB11 is from all angles? Nice job Aston Martin, really a nice job. ■

DAVE STALL is a TV and radio host based in San Diego. His *Automotive Consumer Show* has been aired for over 20 years on KFMB 760, KCEO AM 1000, ESPN Radio RPM Today 800 AM and WS Radio's *Maynard's Garage*. He also does a *Green Show*, as well as general automotive and motorsports, at KCBQ AM 1170. A member of the Driven2Dare team teaching Military Safety Stand Down to military bases—"saving lives one base at a time"—Dave is now also signed on with Armed Forces Radio. He has also been an automotive consumer host on KUSI Channel 51 TV for almost 20 years, teaching automotive consumer information and showcasing new vehicles, as well as automotive and motorcycle charity events. Dave emceeds the San Diego Blood Bank, ALS, Cystic Fibrosis, MADD, the Heart Ride and other worthy charities. He has written a weekly automotive review column in the *North County Times* for over 10 years and also writes for the *East County Gazette* and *San Diego Home & Garden Magazine*. He is also an instructor at San Diego City College, where he has taught *Automotive Consumerism* for 13 years. Dave's media career follows his 30-year stint as an automotive service manager, where he started a New Owner Clinic in 1979, which Toyota then duplicated for all its dealerships and still uses today. ■