

Magnifique

by Joe Sage

Last fall, we flew to Denver for an immersion drive in the Mercedes-EQ lineup to that point—a carryover EQB SUV, along with an all-new EQE SUV and EQE Sedan, as well as an all-new EQS SUV and EQS Sedan. We also had studio presentations (indoors, no driving, no cameras) of upcoming AMG versions, with full teams of engineers, interior designers and stylists on hand. (See our November-December 2022 cover feature.)

We had noted then that early everyday EVs tended to be small, simple, limiting and uninspiring to many. New startups then brought user tech and quicker speeds. But without luxury materials

and quality, analysts tortured themselves to call those newcomers luxury brands—though they still mostly did, if due to their higher prices alone.

For the new wave of EVs from Mercedes-Benz, no such rationalizations are needed—the results from this seasoned luxury builder speak for themselves. Mercedes-EQ establishes an era offering an inarguable luxury experience and atmosphere, along with all that high-tech interface and then some, and Mercedes-AMG EQ versions up the performance game even further, as they always have.

Those AMG versions are now coming to life, and we've just had our hands on the Mercedes-AMG EQE Sedan for a week. Roughly \$20-30 thousand pricier than the non-AMG versions, this mid-size EV sedan (also with an equivalent AMG EQE SUV version) adds many performance elements

worthy of the AMG badge (AMG EVs, after all, will not be boasting those familiar AMG handcrafted gasoline engines), as its front and rear motors deliver 617 hp and 710 lb-ft of torque through fully variable 4MATIC+ all-wheel drive. Engaging its Race Start feature can bring these numbers up to 677 hp and 738 lb-ft for a brief burst of boost.

Styling is bold, sleek and dramatic on the AMG models—its blind grille bearing vestigial vertical bars evoking the gasoline models—all the moreso in new MANUFAKTUR Magno paints (ours Graphite Grey), an innovative new finish with low reflectivity yet the luster of a deep metallic or pearlescent paint, but with more conventional care than matte or flat (the right cloths and waters are still recommended). Besides just looking sharp, this finish conceals cleaning swirls and dust. It's also

hard to miss the AMG carbon ceramic brakes, set in a distinctive AMG 21-inch staggered wheelset.

The AMG EQE Sedan is a substantial vehicle, in line with the best of the Mercedes brand and more than in line with its price. (And there are still an EQE SUV version plus EQS versions of both the Sedan and SUV, as well, all of which we've driven in Mercedes-Benz form and some as AMG builds.)

Nearing three tons, this sedan is a bit of a luxury performance tank, but you'd never notice it as its 617 horses (or 677 on boost) bring you up to 60 mph in just 3.2 seconds, enough to dominate any freeway ramp. If you can have this much power on tap, why would you want any less? In this magnificent machine, you will treasure every pony.

Everything is a bit beyond the ordinary in this. Its 4MATIC+ experience surpasses other all-wheel-drivers with a feeling of not just overall grip but a sense of the power, poise and purpose of each individual wheel. Rear-axle steering, though a smaller spec than on the EQS, contributes to its nimble feel. Brakes are transparent yet exemplary.

The interior is also full of special treats, not on-

NEW NON-AMG PERFORMANCE POSSIBILITY

Mercedes-Benz USA has a new performance acceleration-on-demand upgrade for its non-AMG EQE 350 and EQS 450 models (Sedan or SUV), for an increase of 60 hp on EQE or 80 hp on EQS, with 0-to-60 acceleration up to one second quicker. The over-the-air Acceleration Increase update is offered through the Mercedes me connect Store, via monthly or yearly subscription or lifetime purchase, to tailor a vehicle to changing needs or preferences over time. Costs are as follows:

	EQE 350	EQS 450
Monthly	\$ 60	\$ 90
Yearly	600	900
Lifetime of Vehicle	1,950	2,950

ly in appearance and feel, but also function. One such favorite item were console cupholders that swing into position when needed or retract to provide more stash space when not. Clever.

Charging is also very quick in the EQE, achieving 80 percent in half an hour on DC Fast (which is useful, because range is not extreme).

Performance. Style. Presence. Mercedes-AMG EQ is more than the sum of its parts—a total package, as well as a smorgasbord of details. ■

Names follow a recent trend—Mercedes-Benz, Mercedes-AMG, Mercedes-Maybach—with the new full-EV family going as Mercedes-EQ (except for AMG models, which are Mercedes-AMG EQ). EQ derives from EQ Boost electrified gasoline vehicles of the past few years, EQ being a play on IQ, standing for “electrical intelligence.”



SPECIFICATIONS

ASSEMBLY	.....Bremen, Germany
ELECTRIC MOTORS	.....dual, front and rear axle, permanently excited synchronous
HORSEPOWER	.....617 hp (up to 677*)
TORQUE	.....710 lb-ft (up to 738*)
	.....*(when using Race Start boost)
BATTERY PACK	.....Lithium ion / 90.6 kWh
TRANSMISSION	.....single-speed
0-TO 60 MPH	.....(in Race Start mode) 3.2 sec
TOP SPEED	.....(electr lim) 149 mph
DRIVETRAIN	.....AMG Performance 4MATIC+ fully variable all-wheel drive
SUSPENSION	.....adaptive self-leveling 4-wheel multilink AMG RIDE CONTROL+ sport air suspension based on AIRMATIC
STEERING	.....rack and pinion, electro-mech power assist, 3.6° rear-axle steering standard, more direct front-axle ratio
BRAKES	.....AMG carbon ceramic system (no addtl info or specs)
WHEELS	.....21-in AMG Y-Spoke black alloy
TIRES	.....Michelin Pilot Sport EV F: 265/35 R21 XL; R: 295/30 R21 XL (staggered) high-performance summer
GROUND CLEARANCE	.....(no spec stated): Air suspension can reduce clearance at high speed, increase at low speed
TURNING CIRCLE	.....40.7 ft standard, reduced by 3.6° w included rear-wheel steering, “as maneuverable as a compact car” — no new calculation of distance stated
LENGTH / WHEELBASE	.....196.9 / 122.8 in
HEADROOM (F/R)	.....40.1 / 38.0 in
LEGROOM (F/R)	.....41.7 / 38.2 in
CARGO CAPACITY	.....TBA
WEIGHT	.....5534 lb
RANGE	.....225 miles
CHARGING TIME	.....240V/32A (10-100%) 9.5 hrs
	.....110kW DC Fast Charging (10-80%) 32 min
MPGe	.....74/73/74 (city/hwy/comb)
BASE PRICE	.....\$106,900
PAINT: Manufaktur Graphite Grey Magno	.....3250
LEATHER: black/sable AMG Nappa	.....2990
BRAKES: AMG high-performance ceramic composite system	.....5450
AIR HANDLING: Energizing Air Control Plus with HEPA filter	.....450
ACOUSTIC COMFORT PKG	.....1100
FRONT SEATS: multicontour w massage	.....1100
HEATED/VENTED FRONT SEATS	.....450
BLACK MICROFIBER HEADLINER	.....1600
WHEELS: 21-in AMG Y-spoke, black	.....1400
WINTER PKG: heated windshield washer, heated windshield, heated rear seats	.....1250
AMG NIGHT PKG: front/rear bumpers and side sill inserts w dark chrome accents, black window trim	.....750
PINNACLE TRIM LEVEL: Air Balance pkg, heads-up display, four-zone climate, USB	.....2200
DRIVING LIMITERS: beginner and valet	.....50
CABLE: 110v household charging	.....250
(CREDIT: missing std 871 hands-free acc)	.....(100)
DESTINATION CHARGE	.....1150
TOTAL	.....\$130,240

2023 EQE SEDAN & SUV LINEUP

EQE 350+	Sedan	.....\$74,900
	SUV	.....77,900
EQE 350 4MATIC	Sedan	.....77,900
	SUV	.....77,900
EQE 500 4MATIC	Sedan	.....85,900
	SUV	.....89,500
AMG EQE	Sedan	.....▼ 106,900
(FROM EUROS)‡	SUV	.....139,800