

Audi A3 Cabriolet 1.6 TDI sport



Performance

Petrol buyers have three engines to choose from. The gutless 101bhp 1.6 is best left alone, but the 158bhp 1.8 turbo is much better - it's tractable, revs swiftly and gives decent fuel economy. The 2.0 TFSI has 197bhp, which gives it proper hot-hatch pace. There are two turbo diesels on offer, too: a 104bhp 1.6 and a 138bhp 2.0.

Ride & Handling

It would be too much to expect an open car to be as rigid as one with a fixed roof, but the agile handling and composed ride of the A3 hatch are largely unsullied. There's plenty of grip and accurate steering, although ideally we would like a bit more weight to the steering at speed.

Refinement

The A3 Cabriolet shuns the current trend for folding metal roofs in favour of a traditional fabric one. However, Sport cars get a thicker roof than standard models, and this keeps wind noise down. The 1.9 diesel is noisy, but the other engines are suitably refined. There's not much buffeting for front-seat occupants when the roof is stowed.

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