

# Amazing grace

Motoring journalist Tim Barnes-Clay is moved by the all-round elegance and power of the new BMW 6 Series Gran Coupé

**F**ollowing the convertible and the Coupé in the BMW 6 Series, the Gran Coupé is the true embodiment of aesthetics, sportiness, comfort and luxury. The lean elegance of this vehicle, the very first four-door Coupé in the history of BMW, is an exceptional phenomenon.

The low and graceful lines are impressive, but especially so when looking at the car's side profile. The recessed passenger compartment appears low and smoothly stretched because the window silhouette extends deep into the C pillar. The frameless door windows are also a design element indicative of a muscular Coupé.

Inside, the distinctive character of BMW is unmistakable. The cabin is sophisticated and well-appointed with leather upholstery and electrically operated seats. Roominess for rear passenger contentment is remarkable and folding rear seat-backs, as well as an auxiliary third seat, are among the design features that contribute to the car's versatility.

Driving dynamics, effortless performance and efficiency are the hallmarks of the TwinPower Turbo engines available for the big BMW. The 650i I drove is the first model offered with a new and more efficient V8 engine that delivers impressive shove: 0 to 62 mph comes in just 4.6 seconds. This lump, just like the six-cylinder power units in the 640i Gran Coupé and the 640d Gran Coupé, is offered in conjunction with a creamy smooth eight-speed Sport automatic transmission and proven BMW EfficientDynamics technology.

Safety features include front airbags, side airbags integrated into the seatbacks, head airbags for front and rear seats, three-point automatic seatbelts for all seats, belt force limiters and seatbelt tensioners at the front, as well as ISOFIX child seat fasteners at the rear. What's more, The 6 Series



#### PROS 'n' CONS

- Good looking ✓
- Luxurious ✓
- Fast ✓
- Safe ✓
- Spacious ✓
- On the pricey side X

Gran Coupé includes all the safety features you expect with BMW and also comes with intelligent lightweight construction which reduces the vehicle weight, and the doors and bonnet are made of aluminium. The front side walls consist of thermoplastic material, while the boot lid is made of fibreglass composites.

The wide range of optional equipment available is also impressive: adaptive LED headlights and a Bang & Olufsen High-End Surround Sound System are just a couple of examples of what you can add to the car. And then, of course, there is always the legendary M Sports package.

Optional extras on a BMW look and feel great, but there's always a downside – they tend to make the total price of the car eye-wateringly high. But, if you're a BMW fan, and you have the cash to splash, then this won't put you off the 6 Series

Gran Coupé – it's one of the best four door coupés on the market today.

■ To find out more about the new BMW 6 Series Gran Coupé, contact a member of the Carrs of Bury St Edmunds team on 01284 752525, visit [www.carrsbmw.co.uk](http://www.carrsbmw.co.uk) or drop into the dealership at Thetford Road, Fornham St Martin, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 1SX.

#### FAST FACTS (640i SE)

**Max speed:** 155 mph  
**0-62 mph:** 5.4 secs  
**Combined mpg:** 36.2  
**Engine:** 2979 cc six-cylinder in-line petrol  
**Max. power (bhp):** 320 at 5800-6000 rpm  
**Max. torque (lb/ft):** 450 at 1300-4500 rpm  
**CO2:** 181 g/km  
**Price:** £61,390 on the road

