

# CAR REVIEW

## Maserati GranCabrio

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**SOME SAY that cars are nothing special – they're for getting from A to B. However, that's like saying any home will do as long as it has a roof, walls and a door.**

The Maserati GranCabrio is a car with high appeal throughout, from its luscious looks and Pininfarina styling to the V8 engine's thrilling sound and amazing performance.

On the outside, the headlights extend horizontally, blending into the contours of the nose section, with Maserati's legendary Trident symbol in the centre of the oval grille. The short overhang and long bonnet accentuates the dynamism of the front profile, with three chromed air intakes adorning the front wings in classic Maserati style.

Eye-catching chrome embellishes the top of the side panels, which are complimented by specially sculpted fairings at the bottom that pick up the light to dramatic effect. Impressive 20-inch Trident design alloy wheels fit tightly into the wide wheel-arches, creating a powerful statement about the car's performance potential.

The GranCabrio's sporty, high-tech character is displayed at the rear, where powerful LED triangular taillights ensure maximum visibility and two pairs of large diameter chrome exhaust tailpipes frame the aerodynamic rear valence.

An elegant combination of modernity, craftsmanship and sportiness, the interior displays great attention to detail. A subtle chrome inlay decorates the buttons on the dashboard with the Trident emblem hand-crafted on the seat head-restraints and an Alcantara trim lining the back of the gear change paddles.

The driver's controls give a feeling of total command, with major dynamic functions accessible via buttons on the driver's side. Commonly used multimedia functions can be operated via the steering wheel, which are then displayed on the seven-inch screen of the Maserati Multi Media System mounted in the centre of the dashboard.

The GranCabrio has four seats, allowing you and three others to enjoy driving with the top down. The roof can be opened in just 28 seconds, and if sudden downpour occurs while driving, there is no need to stop. At speeds of 18 mph or below, you simply hold a button down for a few seconds to shut out bad weather.

Controlled by pneumatic valves, the GranCabrio's exhaust system has two characters – discreet and inspiring. In 'normal' mode the valves are closed to ensure a low, discreet sound level. For a more impressive growl, you can press the 'Sport' button, which not only changes the car's performance and handling dynamics but also opens the exhaust valves, thus enabling the engine to deliver maximum power and maximum noise. A governor controls the exhaust valve by-pass so that it only opens above 3,000 revs in 'Sport' mode, for an unforgettable driving experience.

At the heart of all this throbs the most powerful of the Italian engines – the glorious 4.7 litre V8, delivering 434bhp. For truly responsive drivability, 82 percent of maximum torque is available from as low as 2,500 rpm, ensuring exceptional pick-up even in higher gears, so that overtaking is safer and driving in general is more enjoyable. The car can accelerate to 62 mph in just 5.3 seconds and reach a top speed of 175 mph.

Matching a six-speed automatic gearbox to its impressive engine, Maserati has created a combination that will impress the most demanding drivers with its acceleration whilst still delivering smooth and fluid gear changes.

The Maserati GranCabrio is definitely something special: getting behind the wheel for a week is like moving from your bungalow in Birmingham to a villa in Valencia.



### FAST FACTS

Max speed: 175 mph  
0-62 mph: 5.3 secs  
Combined mpg: 18.3  
Engine: 4691 cc V8 petrol  
Max. power (bhp): 434 at 7000 rpm  
Max. torque (lb/ft): 360 at 4750 rpm  
Price: £98,250 on the road