

## BMW's 1 Series gets bigger and better -by Liana Reiners

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Still the only rear-wheel drive vehicle in its class, the new BMW 1 Series offers more space, more innovation, more equipment, better fuel efficiency and a better package all round. Two petrol derivatives – the 116i and the 118i – have been introduced locally, with plans to expand the line-up with the addition of a diesel model before the end of 2011.

The new 1 Series is the first car from the German manufacturer to feature the new BMW Lines, opening up a whole new world of possibilities for personalisation. An exclusive range of equipment options, colour schemes and materials for the interior and exterior equipment are offered. The new BMW 1 Series is also available with numerous design and material options apart from those included in the new BMW Lines. There are currently three non-metallic and eight metallic exterior paint colours.

The 1,6-litre petrol engines making their debut in the BMW 116i and BMW 118i models use BMW's TwinPower Turbo technology, consisting of a twin-scroll turbocharger, high precision injection, VALVETRONIC and Double-VANOS.



The four-cylinder engine of the new BMW 118i has a maximum output of 125 kW at 4 800 r/min and a maximum torque peak of 250 Nm at between 1 500 and 4 500 r/min. It accelerates the car from 0 to 100 km/h in 7,4 seconds and on to a maximum speed of 225 km/h. The engine used in the BMW 116i has an output of 100 kW at 4 400 r/min and maximum torque of 220 Nm between 1 350 and 4 300 r/min. The car takes 8,5 seconds to reach 100 km/h from a standing start and has a maximum speed of 210 km/h.

As an alternative to the standard six-speed manual transmission, the new BMW 1 Series is also available with an optional eight-speed automatic transmission. Other technological features include dynamic stability control (DSC), ABS, dynamic traction control (DTC), cornering brake control (CBC) and dynamic braking control (DBC).

Safety features comprise front airbags, side airbags built into the seatbacks, front and rear head airbags, three-point automatic belts in all seats, front seatbelt tension limiters and pre-tensioners, and ISOFIX child seat mountings in the rear.

Options available as part of the BMW ConnectedDrive programme include adaptive headlights, a rain sensor with automatic activation of the driving lights, high-beam assistance, park distance control, a rear view camera, park assistant, cruise control with braking function, lane departure warning with collision warning and speed limit info, which now for the first time also registers signs prohibiting overtaking.

The new BMW 1 Series incorporates the BMW EfficientDynamics technology package as standard. This includes the automatic start/stop function and the so-called driving experience switch, which is fitted as standard. The latter adjusts the car's set-up to suit the driver's personal preferences. All models offer a choice of three modes, COMFORT, SPORT and ECO PRO. On BMW Sport Line models – and on cars fitted with the optional eight-speed sports automatic transmission, variable sport steering or adaptive suspension – there is also a fourth mode, SPORT+.

Prices range from R268 500 for the standard six-speed model to R360 500 for the Sport Line model with 8-speed automatic Steptronic transmission.

