

# The thoroughly modern new Honda Civic

-by Liana Reiners

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The ninth generation of Honda's Civic was introduced to the South African motoring press in George recently. The range consists of eight models, with two engine variants, three specification levels and two gearbox choices on offer.

At first glance the new Civic might not seem all that different from its predecessor, but the truth is that a lot has changed. For starters, there's more interior space and new interactive technologies, while ride refinement, driving dynamics and comfort have also been addressed. Of course the newcomer looks different too.



On a dynamic level, one of the smart technologies offered is so-called motion-adaptive electronic power steering (EPS), which in combination with vehicle stability assist (VSA), helps the driver with oversteer and understeer, as well as slippery road surfaces. EPS and VSA control braking and engine torque and apply assist force on the steering wheel to help maintain control of the vehicle.



In addition, the Civic uses the latest versions of Honda's so-called G-force control technology (G-CON) and advanced compatibility engineering (ACE) to provide a high level of occupant protection. Dual front and side airbags are fitted as standard, along with curtain airbags on all but the entry-level derivative. ABS is included on all models, linked to electronic brakeforce distribution (EBD) and emergency brake assist (EBA).

As far as powerplants are concerned, the 1,8-litre VTEC engine of the previous model has been retained, but has been updated to deliver improved performance and lower fuel consumption. It's credited with a maximum power output of 104 kW at 6 500 r/min, allied to a torque peak of 174 Nm at 4 300 r/min. More pertinently, the 1.8 Civic boasts fuel consumption of 6,7 litres/100 km and a CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rating of 160 g/km.

The Civic model line-up now also includes a 1,6-litre VTEC engine with programmed fuel injection and drive-by-wire technology. It produces 92 kW at 6 500 r/min and 151 Nm of torque at 4 300 r/min.

All 1.6 and 1.8 models are available with a choice of five-speed manual or automatic transmissions. The list of extensive features on all models is extensive and includes alloy wheels, electric mirrors and windows all round, a tilt and reach-adjustable steering column and speed-sensitive automatic door locks with selective unlocking.

## Pricing:

1.6 Comfort Manual	R209 900
1.6 Comfort Automatic	R221 900
1.8 Comfort Manual	R229 900
1.8 Comfort Automatic	R241 900
1.8 Elegance Manual	R259 900
1.8 Elegance Automatic	R271 900
1.8 Executive Manual	R269 900
1.8 Executive Automatic	R282 900



Prices include a five-year/90 000 km service plan and three-year/100 000 km warranty. Service intervals are every 15 000 km.