

Audi A6 3.0T FSI quattro S-tronic by Adri Bezuidenhout

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I became the proud owner of a pre-used 1989 Audi 500 SE in 1995. It was a beauty. Long and sleek, it sat on four pathetic-looking Marie Biscuit-like wheels. It was roomy and under the bonnet was a five-cylinder engine driving the front wheels. The Audi engine, later fitted with a turbocharger, also became the flame-belching powerplant for the company's all-conquering rally car. But, this is where the good news regarding my Audi grinds to a halt.



The car became a rampant rand raider. Everything that could go wrong went wrong. Good money – lots of it – was thrown after a bad car in the futile hope that the Audi would start behaving itself. It never did.



Time heals wounds and during the years that followed I have driven and evaluated many Audis that convinced me not to judge the brand against my Audi, which, in trade slang, was a lemon.

Take the latest Audi A6 3.0T FSI quattro S-tronic as an example. Rand for rand there isn't anything that will humiliate or beat the Audi in a head-to-head showdown.

The car boasts an abundance of benefits that will exceed the wish-list of any potential buyer.

It is powerful (supercharged, 220 kW, 440 Nm), it is fast (0-100 km/h in 5,5 seconds and a maximum speed of 250 km/h) and thanks to the quattro four-wheel-drive system it is glued to the road. Do you need an expensive quattro system? In the world of motoring, quattro is like a gun in a Western movie. You don't need it often, but when you need it you need it badly. The seven-speed S-tronic transmission also adds to the allure of the car and the two paddle stalks on the steering column come in handy when the going gets quick.

The interior sets the standard for others to strive for. Devoid of gimmicks and unwanted chrome, it is luxury personified. It is obvious that the instrument panel was designed by a group of people who wanted to convey information from the car to the driver, not trying to design some monstrosity to stand a chance of winning a design contest.

Everything in life is relative. If you can afford to dish out R655 000, the Audi A6 3.0T FSI quattro S-tronic is a bargain at the price.

