

Editorial

Maserati Ghibli

As this issue was being wrapped up we received a press release announcing the new Maserati Ghibli to be launched at the Shanghai Show on April 21st. At first glance it looks like the new Quattroporte but it is, of course, a completely different car. Sharing the QP's looks is no bad thing and the more compact Ghibli is expected to be just under five metres in length. This puts the car firmly in German dominated territory.

The Ghibli will have a sportier character compared to the larger Quattroporte and will have turbocharged 3.0-litre V6 engines, an eight-speed automatic transmission and the option of rear-wheel drive and, in some markets, the new Q4 all-wheel drive system. One of the V6 engines will be a diesel which breaks new ground for Maserati. The UK is likely to receive the rear-wheel drive diesel and a 330bhp petrol V6.

With the entry level car said to be priced just below £50k, then the new Ghibli will be set to play a significant role in Maserati's growth plan to sell 50,000 cars per year.