



# Paint the Town Red

**BENTLEY** presents its new line of V8 machines for the sporty urbanite



A two-door coupe comes careening around the wet corner, flying through the streets towards the city centre. The rains continue to beat down upon the St James Red coat of paint covering its body, a similar stylish red enamel colouring the iconic “B” badge above the gloss-black grille of the new Bentley Continental GT V8.

The car rounds another corner, maintaining impeccable control despite the harsh conditions, thanks to its extraordinary torque of 660Nm. The traffic light turns red and the GT coupe comes to a halt. Beside it, the new dark sapphire-coloured Bentley Continental GTC V8 slides into the narrow lane, its retractable top up to protect the bombardment of rain. The GTC V8 driver gives a slight greeting, lifting his hand from the fiddleback eucalyptus veneer dashboard. The two engines rev; the distinctive deep growls of the Bentleys reverberate through the air. The light turns green and the 4.0-litre, twin-turbo V8 engines part, the GT V8 sprinting from zero to 100km/h in 4.8 seconds.

As they disappear into the distance, the flagship Bentley Mulsanne, in a dark onyx from the extensive palette of 115 colours, silently glides up. The chauffeur taps the hand-stitched steering wheel, a product of 15 hours of assemblage, set against the 80-year-old walnut dashboard, which takes five weeks to hew, as he cruises beyond the bend into a residential neighbourhood. The gentleman in the back reclines in the wood and leather-hide cabin in the back, the result of 170 hours of craftsmanship.

Meanwhile, the GT V8 continues on into town, still running on its initial tank of fuel that lasts for 850km, a 40 per cent improvement in efficiency and carbon dioxide emissions compared to previous models. The red coupe pulls up in front of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, where the new Bentley Continental GT and GTC V8 were unleashed on the city on September 14. The driver's door opens, and heels with soles as red as the car step onto the pavement and continue into the venue. In the car park, the Bentley waits to once again paint the town red. ■

## Clockwise From Top Left

The Bentley Continental GT V8; the GTC V8 lets its top down; guests strike a pose at the launch event for the Continental V8s; the luxurious interiors of the Mulsanne