

CARS

Supercars at a super price

Anyone with a taste for speed would love to drive a Ferrari. But they are not all that suitable for the school run. So why not get your hands on a hot rod for the weekend?



stevehalp.com

All of us would love to say: "Let's take the Lamborghini". But for most of us this sentence remains just a fantasy. The fact is that most petrolheads don't need to own a fleet of fascinating cars, but they would all like the thrill of driving them. The solution is car-sharing clubs. More than 28,000 Londoners belong to such organisations.

With costly assets to maintain, car clubs tend to adopt the asset-sharing model. The asset-sharing model also allows for a greater range of vehicles to be purchased by the club. The basic model is that a membership fee buys

you a number of points. The amount of points used depends on the category of the car (more points means more desirable and expensive metal), whether you want to drive on weekdays or weekends (more points for the latter) and the time of year (fewer points for the winter months and more for the summer). How your points are used is down to you, but generally between 35-50 days' use per year is the norm.

You will obviously get fewer days if you want the top-ranked vehicles only for weekend use during the summer, and more if you opt for off-peak weekdays in lower-band cars.

One thing to be aware of is that not all car clubs are created equal.

They are separated into two basic categories: Classic Cars and Supercars. Classic clubs offer a blend of retro and modern vehicles, including Classic Car Club (www.classiccarclub.co.uk) and Parc Ferme (www.parcferme.co.uk). Supercar club fleets offering performance, prestige and supercars include the likes of P1 International (www.p1international.co.uk); écurie25 (www.ecurie25.co.uk); Marque II (www.marquetwo.co.uk), ClubGT, and the recently launched Club Velocita (www.clubvelocita.co.uk) amongst others.

CASE STUDY: MARQUE II

We speak to Graham Beswick, founder of London-based supercar club Marque II.

"Our members tend to be discerning individuals, drawn from a variety of backgrounds, from professionals to celebrities. They tend to be looking to enjoy the driving experience, rather than the 'flash' of driving a premium sports car and our car selection reflects this. Currently available vehicles include an Audi R8, a Maserati Gran Turismo and the new Jaguar XKR, among others. We offer a customisable service based on our members' needs. Aside from the full package, we offer a weekday only package, an international membership for frequent visitors to the UK, which includes an airport meet-and-greet service. There is even a half membership to allow people to sample our service before opting for full membership, and a special ladies-only package."

"The service is designed to be hassle free. Marque II will even pay your congestion charge if you come to collect from us, and at additional cost we can deliver and collect anywhere in Europe. And don't forget that access to our fleet is 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

www.marque2.com (020-7582-2223)