

Ben and Di Morley return from their prize trip to the infamous Nurburgring!

4th October 2009

It certainly was a trip of a lifetime for Di and myself. Getting the chance to travel overseas was great to start with but the Nurburgring truly is the ultimate playground for boys with expensive toys. Exotic cars are the norm at the little village of Nurburg.



Our few days of fun started by taking the wheel of a couple of 2010 model Lotus Exige 240s's and sight seeing around the surrounding areas of the Nurburgring. We viewed the circuit from a few different areas and were instructed by Ron Simmons of some of the things to look out for. A lot of corners start with positive camber and finish in negative, there are many different track surfaces, humps and bumps change from year to year as the track is on a volcanic area, there's heaps of blind crests and blind exits and there's no room for error.

We started our track day with a pace car set up with Ron leading us and explaining the way around via intercom. After a few laps in the Clio Sport we stepped up to the Turbo Megane RSR which was impressive.

We had to reach a level of competency in each car before we could move on to the next. We then drove the M3 CSL which was even more impressive, then finally we took turns of driving the Porsche 997 GT3 RS.

This blew the rest of them away. It was so nice to drive, nimble and accurate but very firm and stable.

Out of the 80 or so corners per lap there are only about 4 that require 3rd gear, everything else is 4th, 5th and 6th, so it's incredibly fast. The track ranges 800m between the highest and lowest parts, so it's more



undulating than anywhere I've driven before. The trickiest part of the circuit I found is the 5k or so between the Carousel and the mini carousel. It is all 4th, 5th and 6th gear so between 130 and 220kmh. There's about 6 blind crests which require hard braking just before you can see the following corner, or flat out turn in points, just before you peak the crest and so on. So knowing what's coming is critical. I've had a lot of experience learning circuits but I've never been so mentally drained from a day at the track as after this day.

The track is just amazing and is incredibly addictive. It's so fast, undulating and dangerous. We'd love to go back again some time.

Diana and I are extremely grateful to the guys at Top Gear and Bridgestone Potenza for the amazing opportunity to drive "The Green Hell". Also a large thankyou to Ron Simmons form RSR for his services, I'd recommend him to anyone going there. He makes the whole dangerous experience reasonable safe and cuts the learning time massively.

Di and I have now come back down to earth and returned to our day jobs at Life and Icon but are very keen to now get the WRX out and have some fun back at home. We may even have a run at the King Edward Park Hillclimb.

I've attached a couple of photos. I didn't get to take many photos of the track day myself as we literally coming in rotating from passenger to drivers seat (Di and I were together the whole time) and going straight back out. There were two guys taking photos of the day from RSR and Top Gear. One from in the lead car and one track side. We will be receiving a copy of a few hundred photos this week. The other photo is in the area we think Octoberfest is held in Frankfurt?

We also had the time before the track day to catch a train to a very picturesque Heidelberg including a castle ruins which is being restored. My pictures didn't do it justice so I didn't include any.

Hope your all well

Ben and Di



I'm Going to the Nurburgring! No Really!

8th August 2009

Hi All

I was flicking through last month's Top Gear Magazine late last week that I hadn't had time to look at. I came across the attached pages that had details of a competition to drive 4 cars at the Ring for the winner and a friend.

The short story is that I entered both Di and myself. I forgot to tell Di, which created an interesting phone call from the Top gear guys this afternoon when they called to let her know she'd won!

After a call to me to check the authenticity of it and after a LOT of convincing, she realised it was real. (I recently convinced her on April 1 that I had a test drive in a Supercar)

We will receive the details tomorrow but basically we are flown to Germany on the 23rd August and return on the 31st. While there, we can enjoy a holiday for a few days as well as drive the Ring for 2 days. We have an instructor that rides with us in two Renault's an BMW M3 then a Porsche GT3 996 RS.

I'll let you know more as I know it.

Cheers - A very excited
Benny Morley

