

## Ever seen a BMW Z8 ?

I had a pleasant day at Croft Circuit at the JDC October Track day (observing – not taking part) and amongst the spectators line up of classic and modern classics was a rather smart looking BMW Z8. A car I had heard of but never seen in the flesh. Some may remember the car was featured in the 1999 James Bond film *The World Is Not Enough*. In the film the car was driven by Bond (Pierce Brosnan) until being sliced in half by a helicopter equipped with tree-cutting saws in Azerbaijan. (shame when you see how much the car is worth now).



Not thinking any more about it at the time, I decided to find out a little more about the car and to say I was surprised would be an understatement.... The Z8 was produced from 1999 to 2003 and was the production variant of the 1997 Z07 concept car.



which was originally designed as a styling exercise intended to evoke and celebrate the 1956-'59 BMW 507.

The car's exterior was designed by Henrik Fisker and the popularity of the concept encouraged BMW to produce a limited

production of only 5,703 units, over half of which were exported to the United States.

With a top speed electronically limited to 155mph, the Z8 has an all-aluminium chassis and body and used a 4.9 L 32-valve V8, that developed 400 hp. Motor Trend magazine achieved 0–60 mph in 4.2 seconds, Car and Driver magazine also tested the car and found that it outperformed the contemporary benchmark Ferrari 360 Modena in three important performance categories: acceleration, handling, and braking.

In order to promote the Z8 to collectors and reinforce media speculation about its "instant classic" potential, BMW promised that a 50-year stockpile of spare parts would be maintained in order to support the Z8 fleet.

Today, the BMW Z8 is regarded as a highly collectible investment grade motorcar and prices have doubled in the last 5-6 years. A quick look on Autotrader brought up only one car, a 1999 model at an eye watering £125,000.....(Advert below in case you want to blow the pension fund)!!

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