



Dream on: Sujan Naidoo admires the new Chrysler Sebring.

'Blinging' in the new year ...

The Chrysler Sebring 2.4 Autostick, in Touring and Limited versions, is sure to attract attention in South Africa.
DAVID RUSH REPORTS.

Price: R219 900 (Touring), R239 900 (Limited)
Power: 125kW at 6 000rpm.
Torque: 220Nm at 4 400rpm.
Acceleration (0 to 100km/h):
 10,64 seconds (Touring); 10,7 seconds (Limited).
Max speed: 200km/h.
Fuel: 9,54l/100km (Touring); 9,6l/100km (Limited).
Tank: 64 litres.

MY fifty cents worth may not mean much in the motoring or music world, but my first reaction when I saw the Chrysler Sebring was 'bling, bling'.

With its trendy grille, bold back, big boot and shiny hubcaps, I half expected an American rapper to leap out of the luxury back seat, overdressed in outrageous clothing, dark glasses and gold tooth completing the look, a bevy of babes awaiting attention.

Okay, maybe not quite, but you get the picture.

The Sebring was sublimely smooth on the road, and a real pleasure to drive. Being an automatic made this even easier.

There was a slight delay getting going, but once on the open road, the car was simply awesome.

The one oddity was that the ignition was on the left hand side, which was

probably an oversight when converting from America's left hand drive for the South African market. It took a little adjusting to and it was embarrassing stabbing the dash a few times!

The car coped well on the dirt, not that that is where these big, roomy cars are necessarily designed to go. I thought it might struggle over some of those nasty 'hidden' speed bumps, but it handled them with ease.

And so, too, some of the coast's famous potholes, where lesser cars may have emerged with a 'bloody nose'. The analogue clock was a popular feature, to go with the rest of the modern dash.

Crossing over into the new year with the Chrysler Sebring was fun.

I am not sure where the name comes from, or whether or not it was intended to rhyme with bling, but I can at least say that I drove it out of 2007 and into 2008.

autodealer

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