

Freeway fracas drums up support for Sebring

CRASH CRISIS IN CHRYSLER CONVERTIBLE

[+ Click to Enlarge](#)



CHRYSLER SEBRING CONVERTIBLE: It's the first from this company with a retractable steel roof and right-hand drive.

March 30, 2009

By Peta Lee

When I moved back to Durban 14 years ago it took me six months to adjust to coastal drivers. Well, to their obvious flaws, anyway.

Yet I'm increasingly realising that bad driving is something to which you never really become accustomed.

I can deal with inadvertent errors – when someone accidentally cuts you off and immediately raises a hand in apology - but taxis in emergency lanes, mamas in Mercs with no use for indicators, boy-racers in ridiculously over-pimped Golfs carelessly lane-hopping... and the chap in a TT (Toyota Tazz) puttering along in the fast lane at 80km/h .

There are loads more lunatics on our roads

They are guaranteed to red-line my blood pressure but there are loads more lunatics on our roads.

Recently my life flashed before me when three taxi-sized, bright-green plastic rainwater tanks slipped their shoddy moorings on a flatbed truck and bounced on to the highway in front of me.

The Chrysler Sebring Limited convertible I was driving behaved impeccably: ahead of me, a mass of vehicles veered and swerved and slammed on brakes, behind me several cars were right up my butt, and on the inside lane (I was in the fast lane), several others were cursing and attempting evasive action.

I had nowhere to go except the middle island. Fortunately, I was at a stretch with no Armco barrier...

With overgrown verges and thigh-high grass adorning our highways, I didn't know if there was a deep concrete culvert or a hidden ridge . I just swerved on to it and hit anchors as the green tank bounced right in front of me and kept going.

The Chrysler Sebring Limited convertible I was driving behaved impeccably

Amazing.

The Sebring didn't miss a beat. Neither did we hit anything. The whole episode took seconds –

but it was freeze-frame stuff. I was convinced the Chrysler and I were history and thanked my lucky stars I hadn't dropped the roof before setting off...

But we were both unscathed. Incredible. As for the flat-bed

driver, he ground to a halt a kilometre down the road when he realised his load had lightened. Obviously sloppily securing was to blame but, as the driver, it was ultimately his responsibility.

PLENTY CUPHOLDERS

The incident sealed my fondness for the Sebring – a vehicle so incredibly attractive, topless or not, that heads turn wherever you go.

We loved it. Loved the speed at which the top raised and lowered and folded so neatly into the boot. Loved the amazingly spacious cabin and its deep and comfy seats. Enough cupholders to keep us happy and first-class aircon.

Hated the heavy and cumbersome boot lid, though: nearly wrenched my ruddy arm out of the socket whenever I opened or closed it.

TOP OF THE POPS

By the way, I discovered by chance the satellite controls discreetly hidden on the back of the steering column. Had I not been running my fingers over that very smooth steering wheel, enjoying the touch, I would never have found them.

Naturally, all of the kids wanted to join our lift club. My daughter was top of the pops and me, well, parting was such sweet sorrow when it went back!

Perhaps the car's not for the real car fundis and techno-freaks but for those who love a pretty car with tons of sex appeal and comfort – and with its 2.7 V6 engine enough grunt to keep you out of trouble.

It's a winner at R299 000.

[Read more Mom's Taxis columns.](#)