

LISTEN.

BY JOE SAGE

There are fully 22 different Camaro coupe models available. Trim levels start at \$25,000 for an 1LS and run through 1LT, 2LT, 3LT, LT1, 1SS and 2SS on up to the ZL1 at \$62,000.

The base 1LS has a 2.0L turbo; three LT models offer a choice of that or a 3.6L V6; and LT1 through ZL1 have a 6.2L V8 (supercharged on the ZL1).

Every one of the above shifts through a six-speed manual as standard or, for \$1495 to \$1595 more, a paddle-shift automatic.

Now add the convertibles, 20 of these—no 1LS droptop but otherwise the same trim-engine-transmission options up through ZL1—with the droptops running \$6000 above coupe prices.

That makes 42 choices right off the bat, though it's an opportunity, not a challenge—you will have no trouble sorting out your own best match.

Our sample here is the next-to-top 2SS 6.2L V8 coupe with optional automatic. At about two-thirds the cost of a line-topping supercharged ZL1, this is a great build (although we'd opt for the manual).

The latest Camaro (revised in 2016) is a beauty to behold—powerful and elegant, thoroughly

modern in its 21st century skin, while maintaining all the cues that make it unmistakably a Camaro—low-slung, wide-breathing, with strong haunches. It's great to look at, and in SS form, it gives you something to listen to—that 455-horse V8.

We generally love the acoustics of a great V8, and on this car it's impossible to miss. Everything has been done to maximize its sound effects, arguably a little too much. Whether in a quiet neighborhood, or when trying to have a bit lower profile when the light turns green (for instance with a cop in the next lane), down to its exaggerated soundtrack making actual performance feel weaker than its auditory promise at lower speeds (it sounds like we're chewing up the track when we're at just 1700 rpm and 20 mph), it's hard to be a sleeper in this beast. At idle its V8 rumble sounds great, but we'd find it preferable if the engineers worked the acoustics so it stayed closer to that until you really jumped on it. A stealth mode addresses this, but we could make a case for maximized sound effects being an opt-in, not an opt-out.

But you can try it for yourself—as we paired up with one in traffic, we learned Hertz now offers a showy No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports black-with-yellow-stripes Camaro SS rental. Have fun! ■

SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	6.2L LT1 16v OV cast alum V8, VVT w dir inj (cylinder deactivation w/automatic trans)
HP / TORQUE	455 hp / 455 lb-ft
DRIVETRAIN	RWD
TRANSMISSION	(opt) Hydra-Matic 10L80 10-spd auto (TREMEC 6-spd manual w active rev match standard)
SUSPENSION	F: MacPherson strut w dual lower ball joints, twin-tube struts, direct-acting stblzr bar; R: indep 5-link w twin-tube shocks & direct-acting stblzr bar (avail monotube Magnetic Ride Control)
STEERING	ZF rack-mounted elec, power-assist, variable ratio rack & pinion
BRAKES	F: 13.6 vented w 4-piston fixed calipers; R: 13.3 vented w 4-piston fixed calipers
WHEELS	F: 20x8.5; R: 20x9.5
TIRES	F: P245/40R20; R: P275/35R20 Goodyear Eagle F1 Asymmetric 3 summer-only run-flats
LENGTH / WHEELBASE	188.3 / 110.7 in
TURNING CIRCLE	38.1 ft
HEADROOM (F/R)	38.5 / 33.5 in
LEGROOM (F/R)	43.9 / 29.9 in
CARGO CAPACITY	9.1 cu.ft
WEIGHT	(2SS coupe automatic) 3757 lb
FUEL / CAPACITY	91 octane premium / 19 gal
MPG	16/27/20 (city/hwy/comb)
BASE PRICE	\$42,000
1SS ADDS:	Brembo 4-piston performance brakes front/rear (available 6 front); cooling units for engine coolant, rear differential and transmission; and optional performance suspension, Magnetic Ride Control, launch control, red calipers and silver strut towers; etc.
2SS ADDS:	Heated, auto-dim side mirrors; Bose premium audio; dual-zone climate; standard heads-up display; aluminum interior trim; forward collision alert; lane change and side blind zone alerts; upgraded interior lighting and illuminated sill plates; optional premium nav; optional Adrenaline Red and other interior and seat packages; etc.
MAGNETIC RIDE CONTROL	1695
10-SPEED AUTOMATIC w remote vehicle start	1595
EXHAUST: dual mode performance	995
INTERIOR: Ceramic White accent trim package	195
DESTINATION CHARGE	995
TOTAL	\$47,475

