



ASTON MARTIN

Aston Martin Vanquish Volante: the ultimate convertible super GT

- **The first Volante to feature a full carbon fibre body**
- **6.0-litre V12 engine produces 573 PS; 0-62 mph in 4.1 seconds (estimated)**
- **Multi-layer lightweight fabric roof folds in 14 seconds**

Aston Martin has unveiled the Vanquish Volante – a stunning new luxury sports car that brings the thrill of open top motoring to the super GT class.

Alongside its coupe sibling, launched to worldwide acclaim last autumn, the Vanquish Volante sits at the pinnacle of the luxury British car maker's sports car line-up.

Benefitting from all of the technical, engineering and design advances present in the Vanquish coupe, the new Volante enhances the driving experience still further through the option of exciting convertible driving.

Instantly becoming one of the most beautiful cars in its class, Vanquish Volante crucially retains the coupe's dynamic character and sporting capability. It boasts the same new AM11 6.0-litre V12 engine as the coupe and the same blistering performance figures, meaning the 0-62 mph sprint is despatched in just 4.1 seconds (estimated) while the top speed stands at 183 mph.

Vanquish Volante is the first fully carbon fibre-skinned Volante in the brand's 100-year history, while also being the stiffest Volante body structure yet created by the engineering team at Aston Martin's global HQ in Gaydon, Warwickshire, England. The new car's triple-skin lightweight fabric roof takes just 14 seconds to fold.

Announcing the arrival of the Vanquish Volante Aston Martin CEO Dr Ulrich Bez said: "This car is what luxury super GT driving is all about. Great performance, fantastic style and exhilarating Volante motoring in one superb package.

"Aston Martin is celebrating 100 years of excellence in 2013, and the arrival of this new sports car – our ultimate Volante – underlines that our mission to make the next 100 years even more successful is starting perfectly."

The design of Vanquish Volante represents the latest take on Aston Martin's iconic visual language. Styling cues such as the elegant waist, elongated side strakes and LED rear light blades are derived from the One-77 supercar while the folding fabric roof sits beneath a tonneau and decklid that have been aerodynamically tuned for optimum performance.

The windscreen, meanwhile, is now full height – a first for Aston Martin – which means that the glass runs up to meet the fabric roof, thereby achieving a particularly clean transition.

The Vanquish Volante's 'suit' of carbon fibre panels cloaks a cabin that is both sophisticated and comfortable. The 2+2 cabin is elegantly attired in authentic and luxurious materials: full grain Luxmil leather with optional quilting, metal controls and satin chrome trim underscore the car's well-appointed nature.

Each body panel on the car is constructed from carbon fibre not just because of its high strength-to-weight ratio, but also for its flexibility of form. This not only reduces mass but means that fewer individual body panels are required – reducing joints and contributing to a more coherent and svelte shape.

As practical as it is well-dressed, the Vanquish Volante boasts a boot that's fully 50% larger than that of the previous DBS Volante. It measures 279 litres – roof up or down – and makes the new Aston Martin the perfect choice for continent-crossing grand tours as well as daily drives.

Perhaps one of the most striking interior design elements is the centre stack with refinements providing a more elegant form that is also more intuitive and accessible for both driver and front seat passenger.

A direct descendent of the One-77 centre stack, the Vanquish and Vanquish Volante's set-up retains familiar elements such as the ECU engine start button and glass gear selection buttons while featuring a new infotainment system and a significantly more user-friendly design.

The facia trim now stretches down the whole centre stack and is manufactured from a single piece of material giving a uniform finish.

The user interface boasts a simple, ergonomically efficient layout as well as technological updates that make it the brand's most advanced in-car system available today.

Capacitive glass buttons with illumination and haptic feedback feature in the rest of the centre stack's switchgear. Haptic feedback is more commonly found in touch-screen mobile phones and Aston Martin was among the first significant luxury car manufacturers in the world to use the technology in a series production model when it debuted on Vanquish coupe in 2012.

Aston Martin Design Director Marek Reichman explained: "Vanquish Volante is a sports car, of course, but more even than that it is the ultimate Volante. A car which follows a long line of elegant Aston Martin convertibles, this super GT is sculpted to convey sophistication as much as raw power.

"The aerodynamically shaped tonneau, the proportions of the folding fabric roof, the luxurious nature of the cabin – these elements have been pored over by the Design team, working with our Engineering colleagues, to ensure we deliver the aesthetic appeal for which Aston Martin is renowned around the world."

Under its curvaceous carbon fibre bonnet the Vanquish Volante comprises the latest generation AM11 naturally aspirated 6.0-litre V12 petrol engine which drives the rear wheels via a Touchtronic 2 six-speed automatic gearbox.

The V12's power peak of 573 PS (565 bhp) arrives at 6,750 rpm while the torque peak of 620 Nm (457 lb ft) is available at 5,500 rpm. These numbers translate into performance that matches the Vanquish coupe's and ensures the new car supports its Super GT billing.

The dynamics have been tuned precisely, with new springs and damper settings calibrated to deliver the same crisp handling yet compliant ride as the coupe.

Strenuous efforts have been made to limit the new car's weight; contributing to its impressive performance, agile handling and compelling power-to-weight ratio. The combination of controlled weight, near-perfect 51:49 weight distribution, a powerful V12 engine and a performance-honed six-speed transmission unite to make the Vanquish Volante as rewarding on the move as it is beautiful standing still.

Like its coupe counterpart, the Vanquish Volante uses the latest generation of Aston Martin's class-leading VH (Vertical Horizontal) architecture, a lightweight bonded

aluminium structure that provides outstanding strength and rigidity. In this iteration, the Vanquish now includes the addition of significant semi-structural carbon fibre components, as well as the use of bonding derived directly from the latest aerospace technologies.

As well as being light, strong and flexible in its application, the gen4 VH architecture is also extremely rigid. The new Vanquish Volante is, in fact, 14% torsionally stiffer than the DBS Volante which preceded it, making it highly resistant to flex and allowing for responsive and predictable handling.

This rigid structure also provides an ideal foundation from which the suspension can control the vehicle effectively, further highlighting the importance of the body structure and the effect it has on the dynamic performance of the car.

Aston Martin's engineering teams have worked particularly hard to minimise the weight outside the wheelbase of the new car to reduce yaw inertia. As a result, carbon fibre has been used extensively in the rear structure and the weight of the aluminium front structure has been limited.

To take full advantage of its precise and rigid architecture, the Vanquish Volante employs a battery of sophisticated technologies including Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) and Positive Torque Control (PTC).

Aston Martin's Adaptive Damping System (ADS) allows the driver to switch between three distinct damping modes: Normal, Sport and Track, delivering instant adjustment of the car's ride and handling characteristics.

The ADS automatically alters the suspension settings to ensure the driver has high levels of control at all times, with the ability to respond quickly to different driving conditions. The different damping modes available help significantly broaden the Vanquish Volante's character, adapting its set-up to suit the driver's mood and requirements. Thus it can be a cruising GT car in Normal mode with the capacity to morph into an assertive sports car in Sport and Track modes.

The damper settings are determined by an electronic control unit which takes sensor readings from the car's systems including throttle position, brake position, steering wheel rotation and vehicle speed. This data establishes the prevailing driving conditions and the demands the driver is making on the car.

Steering, too, is crisp, precise and communicative. The rack's quick 15:1 ratio – 2.6 turns lock-to-lock – is allied to speed-sensitive power assistance that's tuned to deliver optimum assistance.

The car's braking system features third generation Brembo Carbon Ceramic Matrix (CCM) parts to deliver shorter stopping distances with resistance to fade in even the most demanding driving conditions. CCM brakes are also lighter than a conventional system, reducing the weight of the car overall and, in particular, the unsprung weight and rotational masses, further enhancing the performance of the suspension.

The front brakes use 398 mm x 36 mm CCM discs with larger front pads and six-piston callipers from the One-77, while the rear brakes use 360 mm x 32 mm CCM discs with four-piston callipers.

Aston Martin CEO Dr Ulrich Bez added: "Vanquish Volante, like the Vanquish coupe before it, uses the very latest technologies employed in the very best ways to create a sports car which is easy to control, and to enjoy dynamic performance at the finest level.

"This is not simply a great-looking car – this is a great car engineered and crafted for the connoisseur by people dedicated to delivering exceptional sports cars with clearly defined characters."

Priced from £199,995 RRP in the UK; €264,995 RRP in Germany; \$297,995 MSRP in the United States and \$323,974 RRP in Dubai, first deliveries of the new sports car are expected to begin in the UK and Continental Europe late in 2013.

- Ends -

For additional information:

Further design and engineering information available via www.astonmartin.com or www.astonmartin.com/media or alternatively via the following attachments:

Attachment 1: Technical Specification

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Attachment 1

Aston Martin Vanquish Volante specification

Body

- Two-door Volante style with 2+2 seating
- New generation bonded aluminium and carbon fibre VH structure
- Aluminium, magnesium alloy and carbon-fibre composite body
- Extruded aluminium door side-impact beams
- Single bi-xenon headlamps with LED sidelights
- LED light blade rear lamps and LED side repeaters

Engine

- All-alloy, independent quad variable camshaft timing, 48-valve, 5,935 cc V12
- Compression ratio 11.0:1
- Front-mid mounted engine, rear-wheel drive
- Fully catalysed stainless steel exhaust system with active bypass valves
- Six three-way catalytic convertors
- **Max power:** 573 PS (565 bhp) at 6,750 rpm
- **Max torque:** 620 Nm (457 lb ft) at 5,500 rpm
- **Acceleration:** 0-100 km/h (0-62 mph) in 4.1 seconds (estimated)
- **Max speed:** 295 km/h (183 mph)

Transmission

- Rear-mid mounted, six-speed Touchtronic 2 automatic/sequential manual gearbox
- Alloy torque tube with carbon fibre propeller shaft
- Limited-slip differential

Wheels and Tyres

- Front: 9J x 20" Pirelli P Zero 255/35 ZR20
- Rear: 11.5J x 20" Pirelli P Zero 305/30 ZR20

Steering

- Speed-dependent electronically controlled rack and pinion power-assisted steering, 2.6 turns lock-to-lock. Column tilt and reach adjustment

Suspension

- Lightweight aluminium front subframe with hollow castings
- Front: Independent double wishbone incorporating anti-dive geometry, coil springs, anti-roll bar and monotube adaptive dampers
- Rear: Independent double wishbones with anti-squat and anti-lift geometry, coil springs, anti-roll bar and monotube adaptive dampers
- Three-stage adjustable Adaptive Damping System (ADS) with Normal, Sport and Track modes

Brakes

- Front: Ventilated carbon ceramic discs, 398mm diameter with six-piston calipers
- Rear: Ventilated carbon ceramic discs, 360mm diameter with four-piston calipers
- Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) with Track mode
- Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)
- Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD)
- Emergency Brake Assist (EBA)

- Hydraulic Brake Assist (HBA)
- Positive Torque Control (PTC)
- Traction Control
- Launch Control

Dimensions

Length:	4728mm (inc. front number plate plinth)	Wheelbase:	2740mm
Width:	2067mm (inc. mirrors)	Fuel tank capacity:	78 litres (17.2 Imp.galls, 20.5 US galls)
Height:	1294mm	Weight:	1844 kg

Standard specification

- Full-grain Luxmil leather interior
- Alcantara headlining
- Electrically operated front seats with side airbags
- Memory front seats and exterior mirrors (three memory positions)
- 2+2 seating configuration with flexible rear environment storage
- Powerfold exterior heated mirrors
- Front and rear parking sensors
- Cruise control
- Tyre pressure monitoring
- Alarm and immobiliser
- Remote-control central door locking and boot release
- Automatic temperature control
- Heated front seats
- Curtain side head airbags
- Dual Stage Driver and Passenger Front Airbags
- Pelvis and thorax seat-mounted airbags
- Seat belt dual-pretensioners and digressive load limiters
- Trip computer
- Tracking device (UK only)
- Laminated windscreen with clear noise-insulation layer
- Glass key
- Heated rear glass screen
- Bright aluminium front grille
- Chrome side strakes and tailpipe trim

In-car entertainment

- Infotainment system with capacitive switching
- 1000W Bang & Olufsen BeoSound 15-speaker audio system
- Garmin satellite navigation system**
- 6.5" LCD Screen
- iPod® and iPhone® Integration and USB playback
- Satellite radio system (USA only)
- DAB/AM/FM radio¹
- A2DP Bluetooth® audio and phone streaming
- Wi-Fi Hub5

Options

- 10-spoke alloy wheel in a Graphite finish
- 20-spoke alloy wheel in a Liquid Silver, Silver finish with diamond-turning, Graphite finish with diamond-turning, Gloss Black with diamond turning and Satin Black with diamond-turning finish.
- Black vaned grille
- Magnum Silver or Black mesh finish
- Black textured tailpipe
- Black, blue, yellow and red brake calipers
- Exposed carbon fibre side strakes
- Exposed carbon fibre door handles
- Protective film
- Colour-keyed Luxmil leather steering wheel
- Colour-keyed One-77 leather steering wheel with Obsidian Black leather inserts
- Centre-stack facia in carbon fibre 2x2 twill & Piano Black (Herringbone Carbon Fibre, Piano Red and Piano Ice Mocha).
- Headrest embroidery – AM Wings
- Black hardware pack
- Full carbon fibre gearshift paddles
- Shadow bronze jewellery pack
- Personalised sill plaques
- Rear parking assist camera
- Auto-dimming mirror with garage door opener
- Heated and ventilated seats
- Perforated leather door inserts
- Smokers' pack
- Second glass key
- Aston Martin tracking by Cobra 13
- Alarm upgrade (Volumetric and tilt sensors)
- Toolkit
- 6CD auto-changer
- First-aid kit

*+ Includes Traffic Messaging Channel (TMC) in Continental Europe

** Complies with UK Thatcham Category 5 requirements. Excludes subscription. Standard in UK

1 Not available in all markets

2 iPod® is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the US and other countries