

The eternal child when it comes to the pleasures in life, it will be of no surprise to any of my acquaintances nor to my wife, Annelize, at the levels of excitement I attain with the mention of the words – travel, flying, sailing, game drives, fine cuisine, driving, et al.

The opportunity to not only test drive the latest **Bentley Continental Flying Spur** but the **Bentley Continental Flying Spur Speed** and the **Bentley Continental Flying Spur GT** is every school boys dream come true.

Bentley



*Carl Wepener,
CE: Corporate Services*

THE EPITOME OF EXCELLENCE



In just ten days of driving I do believe I have covered more mileage, greater distances and even driven more models than your 'average' Bentley driver. That experience and the memory thereof is something to treasure.

On our arrival at Cape Town International the Bentley Continental Flying Spur was awaiting us. After much excitement and admiration we loaded our large consignment of luggage into the oversized boot leaving room to spare.

This particular Bentley Continental Flying Spur was of the deepest black with seats that just oozed warmth and comfort. We 'rolled' off and the only evidence that we were moving was the most subtle sensation from the W12 (12 cylinder) chariot's engine.

Words fail to describe how quiet and smooth the ride, at any speed was to actually experience the growl from her W12 cylinder 5998cc engine requires an open window and putting the pedal to the metal and letting her soar.

Pulling away smoothly the gear changes through the 6-speed automatic transmission are as fluid as can be, the handling is superb and the road holding with the Continuous All-wheel Drive System is excellent. Top speed is not for the faint hearted and fuel consumption is for the oil barons only. Delivering 412kW @ 6 100rpm, reaching 100kph in 5.2 seconds and running out of breath at 312 kph, keeping this masterpiece below speed limits is not easy.

Keeping a steady speed of 120 kph, which does not come naturally as exceeding the speed limit happens unwittingly, brings the fuel consumption down to 14 litres per hundred kilometres.

The route

We travelled from Cape Town to Franschhoek via De Waal Drive and took great pleasure in tailgating a brand new Ferrari California through the bends, twists and turns. The extremely nervous driver of the Ferrari was of course rather shocked at the capability and road holding of the Bentley and obviously felt rather intimidated.

We stayed at the magnificent La Residence and being fit for a king were treated as such. The Bentley with its traditional looks and matrix grille was of course a huge attraction as well as being the main focal point, and even Judge Willem Heath had to field questions.

I have to admit I was, as was he, delighted as well as intrigued with "our" Bentley.

When the time came to leave you found two 'gentlemen' (Mature children?), trying desperately to avoid making it look too obvious, jockeying for the front right hand side of the Bentley.

The matter was finally settled with Annelize commenting: "Willem looks so distinguished in the Bentley, don't you think?"

That was that! My daughter and I had to drive to Hermanus in the VW Touareg while His Honourable Judge Willem Heath, my childhood friend Johan, complete with driving cap, and the ladies travelled in luxury. To make matters worse, as they passed us they had the audacity to give a royal-like wave. Yes, sometimes you have to make great sacrifices to appreciate such elegance and excellence.

After becoming lost in the memories of our adventure I have to remind myself that the Judge himself will produce an article entitled: *'The Judge, the Car, the Verdict!*, I therefore, should give more focus to reporting on the actual driving experience and technical aspects that other true car lovers will find more pertinent.

Firstly, the experience is only as great as the service you get, and I was pleasantly surprised at the lengths to which Rens Rademeyer from Johannesburg Bentley and William Miller from Cape Town Bentley were prepared to go, to ensure that we not only fully enjoyed the experience of driving the Bentleys, but that the reception and information supplied by the dealers exceeded our expectations by far.

A comprehensive list of standard equipment as well as optional extras is available on the Bentley website. This include a sport tuned exhaust for those of us that enjoy and appreciate the reverberation emitted by our cars.

The interior is just as elaborate with a choice of 17 colours of choice premium grade leather to match the Burr Walnut veneer trim.

Another gem is the optional 'features' at no extra cost, such as a glass sliding roof.

On arrival at the new Cape Royale Hotel we were disappointed at having to return the Bentley Continental Flying Spur, but very soon overcame that as a Bentley Continental Flying Spur Speed was provided for our return trip to Johannesburg. □