

## Best Aston Martin Models

Aston Martin is known for creating some of the best exotic cars that combine timeless elegance and luxury without compromising performance. It's something that they have done for years refining automotive excellence while still captivating car enthusiasts with masterpieces that never fail to live up to the Aston Martin name. In this article, we explore what we think are some of the best Aston Martin Models and their features. It also digs into Aston Martin's history to give you some understanding of how they've constantly appeased the car community with every car they make.

### Aston Martin Vantage AM6

In 2017 Aston Martin unveiled the Vantage AM6 as their entry-level sports to sit below the Aston Martin DB11 and Vanquish. Power comes from a 4.0-liter twin-turbocharged engine making 505 horsepower borrowed from Mercedes, which has a 5% stake in Aston Martin. Later in 2022, Aston Martin unveiled the Vantage V12 with their 690 horsepower 5.2-liter twin-turbocharged V12, and production was limited to only 333 units. Both engines use a timing chain system instead of the timing belt, like in older models such as the Aston Martin DBS with the 5.9-liter naturally aspirated V12.

For V8 models, Aston Martin offered two transmission options, a dual-clutch 8-speed automatic and a 7-speed manual. The V12 models were all sold with the 8-speed automatic transmission. Also offered are some comfort features such as ventilated heated leather seats, carbon fiber trims, and Alcantara upholstery but no sunroof option. You'll have to get the convertible version if you love open air while driving.

Standard driver assist features in the Aston Martin Vantage include traction control, ABS, emergency brake assist, 360-degree cameras, electronic brake distribution, dynamic stability control, positive torque control, and hill start assist. When buying new, customers can opt for 19-inch wheels with size 245-40-19 tires in the front and 285-35-19 in the rear.

### Aston Martin Vulcan

With production limited to 24 units, the Aston Martin Vulcan is among the rarest Aston Martins ever made, and all units were sold out even before production began. Being a track-only car, the Aston Martin Vulcan features a bespoke, sharp aerodynamic design featuring an all-carbon body topped off with a massive rear wing and front splitter. Also, there are underbody diffusers which, together with the wing and splitter, allow the Vulcan to generate over 2800 pounds of downforce when in motion.

The Aston Martin Vulcan's power comes from a 7.0-liter naturally aspirated V12 that sounds phenomenal from the side exiting straight pipe exhaust. With 820 horsepower, 0-60 is achieved in 2.9 seconds, and top speed maxes out at 225 miles per hour. Is that enough for a car with a price tag of over \$2.3 million? For the transmission, Aston Martin equipped the Vulcan with a 6-speed sequential transmission lifted from the Vantage GT-3 cars together with the engine but retuned for better response.

You'd expect the Aston Martin Vulcan's interior to be stripped out since it's a race car, but it's the opposite. It's more refined while retaining track car ambience with all trims made of carbon, contributing to the car's lightness. There's not much except a screen on the dash displaying all stats and switches to start the car and change different settings, such as how much horsepower the engine makes. No creature comforts are available in the Aston Martin Vulcan, and the only way you'll get air conditioning is by opening a small cutlet on the windows. Not appropriate for a 2.3 million dollar car, but what do you expect? It's a track car!

### Aston Martin Vanquish

The Aston Martin Vanquish is Aston Martin's longest-produced car, with a 17-year production run being produced from 2001 to 2018. However, production was briefly discontinued in 2007 after the first generation so that Aston Martin could focus on other better-selling models such as the DBS. The second generation entered production in 2012 and got discontinued in 2018 for the same reasons Aston Martin discontinued the first generation in 2007.

Both Aston Martin Vanquish generations feature the same 5.9-liter V12 but with more updates hence more power output in the 2012-2018 model. There are no significant drivetrain differences between the two generations except

that the second generation was not sold with a manual transmission, unlike the first generation, which got a 6-speed manual alongside a 6-speed automated manual transmission.

### Aston Martin Rapide

The Aston Martin Rapide was produced as their first mass-produced sedan, and even though they're known for their sports cars, the Rapid ticks all boxes you'd want in a family sedan, plus more. But the Rapide is not just your ordinary family sedan. It's built on a stretched DB9 chassis and has a similar body design flow as the DB9. The icing on the cake is under the hood, as all units were produced with the 5.9-liter V12, with the old timing belt system, mated to either a 6-speed or 8-speed automatic transmission. Aston Martin did not use the 6-speed manual transmission used on the DB9 and DBS 12 in the Rapide.

In true Aston Martin culture of not installing a sunroof on most of their cars, the Aston Martin Rapid does not have a sunroof, and it was not an optional feature during its 10-year production run. That aside, the Rapid has several comfort features, including heated front and rear leather seats, automatic climate control, air conditioning, air quality control, and a height-adjustable driver's seat, among others.

Despite being a sedan, the Aston Martin Rapide doesn't feel like one when you drive it. It has advanced driving features such as traction control, stability control, ABS, electronic brake distribution, and track mode in later models such as the Rapide S and AMR, which was the last Rapide model introduced in 2019. Is the Porsche Panamera a better option? We'll let you decide.

### Aston Martin Cygnet

Car manufacturers have gone out of their way severally to make unique cars, and in most cases, they have a purpose when doing it. But Aston Martin making the Cygnet tops the list of the most unique, if not awkward, manufacturers have made away from regular cars they make. So, why did Aston Martin make the Cygnet? Their website describes it as a luxury solution to urban mobility. They also made it to comply with European emission regulations that apply to all cars that a car manufacturer makes.

After unveiling the Aston, Martin Cygnet received negative critics, and the CEO at the time, Ulrich Bez, defended it saying that the company needed a more inclusive lineup and they got positive feedback from interested customers. Based on the Toyota IQ, the Aston Martin Cygnet features the same 1.3-liter 4-cylinder engine as the IQ making roughly 100 horsepower mated to a 5-speed manual, 6-speed manual, or CVT transmission.

After production, some car modification shops, such as Gordon Q, swapped the 1.3-liter engine with larger V8 engines. Gordon Q's Aston Martin Cygnet features a 4.7-liter V8 engine lifted from a Vantage. With prices starting at around \$30,000, would you buy an Aston Martin Cygnet or the Toyota IQ that it was built from and save over \$20,000?

### Aston Martin DB9

Modern James Bond movie enthusiasts will recognize the Aston Martin DB9 from a mile away, given that its ranks top among the best Aston Martins to feature in the movie franchise. Aston Martin even created the Bond Edition DB9 with limited edition plaques, special accessories such as a Globe Trotter trolley case, and an Omega Seamaster Aqua Terra 150m James Bond Limited Edition watch finished with Aston Martin-themed straps.

In the 12 years it was in production, Aston Martin used their 5.9-liter naturally aspirated V12 in the DB9 coupled to a 6-speed automatic or 6-speed manual transmission, depending on the customer's options. Manuals are the most sought-after since they are rarer and have the raw driving experience enthusiastic drivers crave. But DB9s with an automatic transmission have better driver assist features such as traction and cruise control in addition to the standard ABS, electronic brake distribution, and tire pressure monitoring.

### Aston Martin DBX

Aston Martin making the DBX didn't come as a surprise since most exotic car manufacturers were aiming at making SUVs. Lamborghini had the Urus, Porsche had been making the Cayenne and Macan for a while, and rumors were spreading that Ferrari would soon make an SUV which they unveiled in 2022. Unlike the Rapide, which Aston Martin used an extended platform from the DB9, the DBX got a new platform but has the same 4.0-liter AMG V8 engine as the Vantage.

A 9-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission is the only option offered, and it sends power from the engine to all four wheels. Like other SUVs in its class, the Aston Martin DBX has selectable driving modes befitting an SUV. These include GT, sport, sport plus, terrain, and terrain plus. It also has an active transfer case, a height-adjustable suspension, and a controllable electronic rear differential for off-roading purposes.

It's fast, practical, and comfortable to drive. What more could you ask from the Aston Martin DBX? On a good surface and with launch control engaged, standard models will do 0-60 in just 4.3 seconds, while the DBX 707, the highest-performance model, will do it in 3.1 seconds!

There's not much customization offered when specing an Aston Martin besides the usual interior and customization options, comforts in the interior such as ventilated seats and carbon trims included in the carbon package. For the exterior, two wheel sizes are offered, 22-inch and 23-inch wheels wrapped in 285/40 YR22-sized tires in the front and rear. You can also change the paint, taillight design, brake calipers color, grille finish, and glazing.

## Aston Martin DBS

In 2018, Aston Martin brought back the DBS name to their lineup, previously used in the 1967 to 1972 DBS. They later introduced the Superleggera prefix, which pays homage to their innovative lightweight construction methods pioneered by Italian coachbuilders. The DBS's design demands attention everywhere as it's one of the best-looking cars in Aston Martin's current lineup. You can't fail to notice the attention to detail in how the body lines flow.

Under the hood is a 5.2-liter twin-turbocharged V12 churning out 715 horsepower driving the rear wheels via an 8-speed automatic transmission. In the DBS 770 Ultimate, meant to commemorate Aston Martin's 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, power output is increased to 759 horsepower, making it the most powerful DBS you can buy. The only disadvantage is that production is limited to 499 units, all sold out even before production. The convertible Volante has no increased power output over the standard coupe model.

## Aston Martin DB11

The Aston Martin DB11 is often mistaken for the Vantage since it shares the same 4.0-liter AMG V8 as the Vantage. Also, the V12 model, DB11 V12, has the Aston Martin twin-turbocharged V12 used in the Vantage and other cars in the current Aston Martin lineup. Looks don't help distinguish between the two since they are almost similar, with the only difference being that the Vantage has a more aggressive front end with a more prominent grille. Also, we believe the Vantage has a better-looking rear end with the taillight running across the trunk lid than the split one-piece DB11 taillights.

Built as a grand touring car, the Aston Martin is slightly more comfortable than the Vantage despite being heavier and longer. The extra weight also means that the DB11 is slightly slower but can still do 0-60 in 3.9 seconds for the V8 model and 3.9 seconds for the DB11 V12. Like most Aston Martins, no sunroof option is offered for the Aston Martin DB11. Comfort features are limited to heated leather seats, wood inlays on the dashboard, Aston Martin embroidery on the headrests, and a few others. But you can get a convertible model, which is better than getting one with a sunroof. Would you get an Aston Martin DB11 or the sportier Vantage?

## Conclusion

Each Aston Martin Model is a masterpiece in its own right, including the Aston Martin Cygnet, which is just a Toyota IQ donned with Aston Martin goodies that don't justify its price tag. As Aston Martin continues to produce more cars, they leave a legacy in the automotive world, and we can't wait to see what they roll out with every passing year.