

# What's the REV?

Industry snippets and quick news about launches, reviews, motorsport

## Sefac, Shell & Kyalami Together Again.

Our beloved Kyalami is once again standing tall and proud. Rumours that Tobi Venter is running for president, however, are sadly unfounded. Heaven knows we'd vote for him. As the drastically rejuvenated venue nears its completion, so an increasing number of functions and events line up to make use of the improved conference facilities and, more importantly, the enticing new circuit.



➤ And if your standard Ferrari isn't dramatic enough, there's this

Toyota was the first major player to hold an event there with the launch of the new Hilux in 2015. Porsche themselves held an international launch of the new Carrera at their 'home circuit' and in May 2016 the biking fraternity held a very successful festival at the Midrand-based track.

Ferrari - with respect to Kyalami's current custodians - is arguably the most famous name in motor sport. The Southern Equatorial Ferrari Automobili Club (Sefac) held their first meeting at the revamped

The partnership between Ferrari and Shell is a brotherhood seemingly cemented in the very foundations of modern motor racing.

Shell Commercial Lubricants proudly displayed its latest range of commercial fuels, including Shell Rimula Ultra 5W-30 with Dynamic Protection Plus Technology on the day. The fuel, according to Shell, is proven to provide up to 56% better engine wear protection, extended oil life and improvement in fuel economy of 2%.

Kyalami on the 23rd July 2016. In what has become not only a memorable day for Ferrari owners but also for the public at large, between 150 and 200 prancing horses showed up. They were there to be drooled over by us and driven around the billiard-table smooth new layout by their proud owners. As impossible as it is to pick a highlight, the F12 and 458 bulked up by Novitec bolt-ons were hard to ignore.

## Are you an X Man?

by Kieran Rennie

Or Woman for that matter? The BMW X1 is a family car after all. These cars are going to be driven as much by women (if not more) as they are by men. But are they worth the extra money?

If you're hoping that I'm going to start using phrases such as 'pricing hyped up by brand snobbery,' then you might as well stop reading. Pricing, cost and expense are all relative terms. The heart, as we're well aware, will often rule the head.

BMW say about the X1, "Whether in an urban setting or off-road, its powerfully-defined silhouette with a long wheelbase and short overhangs cuts an impressive figure." I'm still not convinced by the looks. From the front, it's purposeful and handsome. The rear of the car, however, is still a little function over form.

The problems regarding interior space with the previous model have been addressed. The new car has 56cms of leg room in the rear and improved boot size. We may, in that case, forgive the slightly clumsy rear profile.

As you would imagine, the interior of the X1 is a comfortable and sophisticated place to be. Thankfully BMW's iDrive system



- the brain behind the car's multitude of functions and features - has improved over the years and is now intuitive and easy to use.

I'm constantly and increasingly impressed with BMW diesel engines. The 2.0l 4cyl turbo-diesel in the X1 is a gem - 140KW and 400NM. Those are impressive figures and the motor is smooth and responsive.

Average fuel consumption is a claimed 4.6l/100km. That might not be a realistic, day-to-day figure but with a little patience you should be able to keep it under 7l/100km. So, would I buy one instead of the Kia Sportage (for instance)? The Korean equivalent starts at R483 995, a full R82 000 less than the BMW and the Sportage is, in my opinion, a better-looking car. The build quality is vastly improved and the factory warranty is impressive. The maintenance and insurance will be considerably less than an (out of warranty) X1. So which one then? If I could afford the extra (estimated) R2000 per month, I would buy the BMW. It has a presence. It feels stronger, safer and more refined and it's more enjoyable to drive.

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