

City lights

The Audi S7 Sportback comes with impressive dynamics, elegance and comfort—as was compellingly demonstrated in an illuminating drive through the heart of big city Berlin.

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Fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions figures for the Audi S7 Sportback can be found on page 17.



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Even Brits like a bit of speed, don't you know? Although, in the UK, they do need to hold back just a bit. The maximum speed permitted on the motorways is 70 mph or 113 km/h, which is just above the limit allowed on Germany's cross-country roads. Little wonder, then, that our colleagues from the UK's Audi magazine decided to test drive the Audi S7 Sportback on a German autobahn. And in order to enjoy the thrill of unrestricted speed to the full, they chose the time of day that appeals to so many drivers: dead of night.

High noon in London and the expedition sets out straight from the airport to the Eurotunnel that connects Folkestone with Calais. Despite the evening rush hour, the crew traverse idyllic Belgium with little delay. On this rainy day in early spring, the sun has by now long since set. The almost continuously lit European highway rhythmically generates the first magical light reflections on the surface of the Audi S7 Sportback with its oolong gray metallic finish. Finally, having passed Venlo in the Netherlands, they reach their goal—the point where Dutch highway becomes German autobahn. For the next approximately 600 kilometers, the A2 now belongs to the Brits with their high-performance right-hand drive.

The Audi S7 Sportback is able to develop an impressive 309 kW and a maximum torque of 550 Nm, thanks not least to the Audi S tronic dual-clutch transmission, making it “a bit quick” on the road. With acceleration of 0 to 100 km/h in just 4.7 seconds, it can reach top speed within a breathtakingly short space of time. Once cruising, however, the COD—“cylinder on demand”—technology of the V8 engine comes into its own. When traveling in the partial-load range up to 3,000 rpm, four of the eight cylinders are shut down as soon as third gear is engaged, without the driver even noticing the difference. The result: fuel consumption equating to 9.6 liters over 100 kilometers combined. For an engine of this caliber, that's a real highlight.

Taking a break at the rest stop. The silhouette of what many observers consider to be the Audi brand's most elegant luxury sedan takes shape under the glare of the neon lights. Although the Audi S7 Sportback has been on the roads in Germany since summer 2012, it still turns heads wherever it goes. Admiration? Respect? Or wonderment at the sight of two English women and a German photographer loitering at a Lower Saxony filling station so late at night? With typical British understatement, this is assumed to be the most realistic explanation for the attention the team is attracting.

Then it's back on the autobahn to eat up those last few kilometers. The adaptive air suspension – sport adjusts the chassis to any surface and in any driving situation, with the range extending from low-slung and soft to precision pneumatic springing. The internal speakers suppress disruptive noise frequencies, which means that acoustically there is no distinction between the 4-cyl and the 8-cyl modes. Always sporty and comfortable, always dreamily safe handling. As the car purrs along and the occupants relax, the optional Bang & Olufsen Advanced Sound System

converts the interior of the Audi S7 Sportback into an auditorium for *The Last Night of the Proms*. Incidentally, for the first time ever, a woman conductor has been chosen for the 2013 performance, Music Director of the American Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Marin Alsop. Meanwhile, keeping the Audi S7 Sportback in perfect tune this night is a lady who goes by the lovely name of Katie Johnstone.

A night vision assistant is not really needed in these conditions. But it's a nice feeling to have this option available on board, just in case a bit of driver help is needed. A thermal imaging camera would instantly warn of any obstacles ahead. Until now, however, the only things hitting the automobile are the lights from the road, generating wonderful effects in interplay with the illuminated cockpit. The driver feels like the captain of a space ship and it's almost a shame that the trip has to end—on the stroke of midnight, the Audi S7 Sportback reaches its destination in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz. But even at a standstill, the Audi S7 Sportback has one more highlight to offer: With a trunk volume of 535 liters, it's ideal for long tours as well as for those shorter trips to the city and back. And the overall assessment of the British test drivers is correspondingly positive: They were “highly impressed.” //

 You will find more material and also a video of the Audi S7 Sportback exclusively in our iPad app.

Audi S7 Sportback 4.0 TFSI quattro (309 kW)

Drive/transmission

quattro permanent all-wheel drive, 7-speed S tronic.

Standard equipment

Includes deluxe automatic 4-zone air-conditioning, alcantara/leather combination, front seats electrically adjustable plus memory function for the driver's seat, driver information system with 7-inch color display, S sports seats, adaptive air suspension – sport.

Optional extras

Include LED headlights, Bang & Olufsen Advanced Sound System, MMI Navigation plus with MMI touch, head-up display, night vision assistant with pedestrian detection.

 Learn more about the Audi S7 Sportback at www.audi.com/a7.

The figures stated were determined in accordance with stipulated measuring methods. Fuel consumption urban/extra-urban/combined (in l/100 km): 13.4/7.5/9.6. CO₂ emissions combined (in g/km): 225, EU5.