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Information No. 11

29th July 2003

The new BMW M3 CSL. Test reports from *auto motor sport* and *sport auto*.

For your information we have provided extracts from the test reports of two German automobile magazines: "*auto motor sport*" and "*sport auto*".

Test report in *ams* 14/2003 **Five-star report**

"**M to the power of three**" is the title given by the *ams* journalists – capturing the purist sporty character of this vehicle in a nutshell. A highly dynamic vehicle for perfect driving pleasure – pure thrill and adrenaline are confirmed by the *ams* journalists after their test:

"Compared to the CSL, even the sporty basic product suddenly seems tame. The more direct steering translates the driver's intentions so swiftly and precisely it seems like telepathy. The nose is pulled with iron strength towards the inside of the curve even at speeds well beyond the usual – no M3 before has refused to understeer so steadfastly."

The *ams* test drivers confirm that the BMW M3 CSL has successfully managed to leap into a new dynamic class as follows:

"In terms of driving dynamics, scarcely any car can currently compete with the M3 CSL – especially if you take the fun factor into account.... In spite of an engine speed range of up to 8000 rpm, the 3.2 litre engine still manages generous torque even at lower engine speeds. From 6000 rpm, the 6 in-line cylinders generate a feeling which will infect even the most hard-boiled sports driver. It would be difficult to present 360 bhp more attractively than this."

Even though the BMW M3 CSL strives to get close to a motor racing feel, the *ams* journalists nonetheless attest to its suitability for everyday use:

"And all things considered, it is still surprisingly good for everyday use. Its suspension is hard but at least it is not unjust: there are no brutal knocks."

The *ams* test journalists conclude that the additional price for the M3 CSL, compared to the M3, is very well worth it – thanks to its outstanding handling qualities and amazing sound. They awarded the maximum rating of five stars to this fascinating sports coupé.

Test report in *sport auto* 8/2003 **M3 CSL beats Porsche 911GT3!**

With a 5 point lead, the M3 CSL proves that it is well ahead of the rest even at the ultimate limits:

"What comes after fast, faster, fastest? What could be better if the verdict 'excellent' has already been awarded? And what is the comparative of fascination?"

The many technical highlights and refinements of the vehicle are described in detail, including the dream time of 7.50 minutes on the demanding Nürburgring Nordschleife – faster than the GT3!

"It was clear that the car would undercut 8.22 minutes – but not by this margin."

"The intensive fine tuning of the entire system – including not only weight reduction but also far-reaching modifications to the suspension (aluminium transverse link, uniball clearance-free joints), the steering (more direct ratio) and the braking system (larger discs) – created the basis for a usual step which is quite unique in its consistency."

With 64 points from a total of 70, the CSL is not only rated by *sport auto* as extremely sporty, but also equally likeable:

"The amazing thing about the CSL is that in spite of its extremely sporty character, it still has virtually everything that characterises its civilian siblings: low-key elegance, practical value and a high degree of social compatibility."



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Yours sincerely,
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