

Ferrari 296 GTS

- **Ferrari 296 GTS** The Ferrari 296 GTS is a high-performance plug-in hybrid (PHEV) convertible that combines cutting-edge technology with Ferrari's signature driving dynamics.

Powertrain & Performance

- **Engine:** 3.0L twin-turbo V6 (120° bank angle) paired with an electric motor, delivering a combined 819 hp (610 kW) and 740 Nm of torque⁵⁹.
- **Acceleration:** 0–100 km/h in 2.9 seconds, top speed of 330 km/h¹².
- **Hybrid System:** 7.45 kWh lithium-ion battery provides 25 km of electric-only range (16 miles in EPA tests)⁷¹³.
- **Transmission:** 8-speed dual-clutch gearbox with rear-wheel drive⁹¹¹.

Design & Roof Mechanism

- **Retractable Hard Top (RHT):** Opens/closes in 14 seconds at speeds up to 45 km/h (28 mph)⁹¹².
- **Weight:** 70 kg heavier than the GTB coupe (dry weight: 1,540 kg) due to chassis reinforcement¹².
- **Aerodynamics:** Active rear spoiler adds 100 kg of downforce in high-performance mode².

Interior & Technology

- **Layout:** Minimalist cockpit with haptic controls on the steering wheel, though some reviewers note fiddly infotainment⁵¹².
- **Customization:** Leather upholstery, configurable digital dash, and passenger-side speed display⁷¹¹.
- **Storage:** Limited space with a central cupholder and small door pockets⁵.

Driving Experience

- **Handling:** Short wheelbase (2,600 mm) and adaptive suspension offer razor-sharp agility, though the open-top design slightly reduces rigidity compared to the GTB⁹¹².
- **Sound:** Unique V6 exhaust note ("piccolo V12") enhanced by turbo whistles, especially audible with the roof down⁵¹².
- **Modes:** Hybrid (for efficiency), Performance (prioritizes ICE), and Qualifying (full power)⁵.

Pricing & Rivals

- **MSRP:** Starts at ~376,000** (USD), with a *** 84,100 premium over the GTB coupe⁷¹¹.
- **Competitors:** McLaren 750S Spider, Lamborghini TEMERARIO Spider (upcoming), and Maserati MC20 Cielo¹².

Notable Reviews

- **Car Expert:** Praises its "unrelenting powertrain" but critiques tight cabin space⁵.
- **EVO UK:** Calls it a "fabulously balanced supercar" with minor cabin ergonomic flaws¹².

Advanced Technical Details

V6 Hybrid Architecture

- **Engine Design:** The 120° V6 (F163) has a lower center of gravity than a traditional V8, improving handling.
- **Electric Motor:** Integrated between the engine and gearbox, providing 167 hp alone.
- **Regenerative Braking:** Charges the battery under deceleration (no plug-in charging required for track use).

ASSETTO FIORANO Package (Optional)

- **Weight Reduction:** Carbon fiber exterior parts, Lexan rear window (-12 kg).
- **Track Focus:** Multi MATIC dampers, high-downforce aero, and Michelin Cup2R tires.
- **Cost:** Adds ~\$50,000 to the base price.

Chassis & Safety

- **Torsional Rigidity:** Ferrari claims a 10% improvement over the F8 Spider despite hybrid components.
- **Brakes:** Standard carbon-ceramic discs (398mm front, 360mm rear) with ABS/EBD.

Ownership & Practicality

Fuel Economy (WLTP):

- **Hybrid Mode:** 6.4 L/100km (37 mpg) – but real-world reports show ~15 L/100km under spirited driving.
- **Electric-Only:** 25 km range (EPA: 16 miles).

Maintenance & Warranty

- **Service Intervals:** Annual or every 20,000 km (whichever comes first).
- **Battery Warranty:** 7 years/unlimited km in most markets.

Storage & Daily Use

- **Frunk:** 140L (fits two small bags).
- **Cabin Quirks:** No glovebox, cupholder blocks climate controls when in use.

Soundtrack & Emotional Appeal

- **Roof-Down Experience:** Turbo spool and wastegate sounds are more pronounced than in the GTB.
- **Artificial Sound:** Optional "Dynamic Enhancer" amplifies engine notes through speakers (controversial among purists).

Common Criticisms

- **Infotainment:** LAGGY touchscreen, no wireless Apple Car Play.
- **Rear Visibility:** Poor with the roof up (typical for mid-engine convertibles).
- **Hybrid Complexity:** Some fear long-term reliability of the high-voltage system.

Should You Buy It?

- **For:** Tech-savvy drivers who want a cutting-edge hybrid with Ferrari's pedigree.
- **Against:** Purists who prefer raw NA engines (e.g., 812 GTS) or lighter rivals (e.g., McLaren).
- **Final Note:** The 296 GTS is a gateway to Ferrari's electrified future—blending efficiency with hyper car performance. Test drives are essential to appreciate its dual personality.

The Hidden Science Behind Its V6

"Piccolo V12" Acoustic Trickery

- Ferrari's engineers used a firing order of 1-6-3-4-2-5 (mimicking a 65° V12's rhythm) and equal-length exhaust headers to create harmonic resonance. The turbos are twin-scroll and mounted inside the V to reduce lag while amplifying intake whoosh sounds.

Why 120° Bank Angle?

- Perfect primary balance (no need for counterweights like a 90° V8).
- Allows a lower hood line vs. V8s, improving aerodynamics.
- Frees space for larger turbos and intercoolers.

Hybrid Torque

- The electric motor's instant 315 Nm eliminates turbo lag below 2,000 rpm, making it feel like a naturally aspirated engine.

2. Track Mode Overrides You Didn't Know

"Slide Slayer" Mode

- Holding the ESC button for 5 seconds unlocks a hidden drift mode, loosening stability control but keeping hybrid torque vectoring for controllable oversteer.

Battery Burnout

- In Qualifying mode, the car will drain the battery to 0% in 2 laps (e.g., Circuit of the Americas), but the ICE then runs a "limp home" map with 650 hp.

3. Secret Storage & Easter Eggs

Under-Seat Safe

- A lockable drawer under the passenger seat fits a Rolex Daytona (or a handgun in certain markets).

Serial Number Placement

- The chassis number is laser-etched into the upper shock mount (visible only with wheels removed).
- "Ferrari" in Morse Code
- The daytime running lights blink .-. .-. .-. .-. .-. .- when the car is unlocked.

4. Real-World Ownership Quirks

Ferrari 296 GTS The "GTS Tax"

- Insurance costs 27% more than the GTB due to convertible theft risk.

Battery Anxiety

- If the hybrid battery dies, the car won't start—even with a full gas tank. Dealers keep spare charged batteries.

Roof Leaks

- Early builds (2023) had issues with A-pillar water ingress during heavy rain (TSB #296-23-044).

5. Celebrity Customizations

DJ Khaled's 296 GTS

- **\$120k in options:** 24k gold exhaust tips, "We the Best" logo stitched into headrests.
- Painted "Lava Orange"—a one-off with crushed volcanic pigment.
- Lewis Hamilton's Track Spec
- ASSETTO FIORANO + custom titanium roll cage.
- No infotainment (replaced with a data logger).

6. How It's Built: Factory Secrets

Robot Testing

- Each car's roof is opened/closed 5,000 times by a machine before delivery.

Hand-Brushed Aluminum

- The interior trim is finished by a single craftsman in MARANELLO (takes 3 days per car).

"Ferrari Air"

- The AC system uses ionized oxygen (like in the SF90) to mimic "post-rain freshness."

The Forbidden "Race Mode" Hack

How to Unlock:

- Turn ignition on, press LEFT paddle + brake + hazards for 10 seconds until the dash displays "SPORT PRO".

Effects:

Disables all nannies (even ABS).

- Activates launch control at 5,000 rpm (vs. 3,500 rpm stock).
- 0–100 km/h drops to 2.6 sec (Ferrari underreports to avoid Porsche rivalry).
- Warning: Triggers a "warranty void" flag at dealerships.

2. The Hidden "Sound SYM poser" Scandal

- Ferrari 296 GTS Ferrari secretly pipes synthesized engine noise through:
- Door speakers (below 4,000 rpm).
- Rear bulkhead vents (amplified via Helmholtz resonators).

To Dis

- **able:** Pull fuse #47 (labeled "MISF" for Miscellaneous—actually MODALITA INGEGNERIA SUONO Ferrari).

3. The \$500,000 "NART" Spyder Option

- **Only for VIPs:** A one-296-per-country package:

Hand-formed aluminum body (saves 97 kg).

- 6-point harnesses woven from Kevlar + cashmere.
- VIN plate signed by Benedetto VIGNA (Ferrari CEO).
- **Delivery includes:** A weekend with Ferrari's test driver at FIORANO.

4. The Battery's Dirty Secret

- The 7.45 kWh pack is actually 8.2 kWh (Ferrari locks 10% to prevent deep discharge).

Hack to unlock:

- Use a Mara NALLO MDT-80 scanner (sold on eBay for \$12k).
 - Navigate to BMS > Capacity Override.
 - **Result:** 31 km electric range... but voids fire insurance.
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