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Test of Character: Four Cars – One Porsche

A good many people have been spotted doing a double take at gas stations these days. Is that diesel fuel going into a Porsche? Yes, it is! That exclamation mark belongs to everyone who has driven the new Cayenne. This sporty off-road vehicle is a true Porsche—even if it pulls up to a different pump—and has a character all its own.

However—doesn't every Porsche have its own character? That is what this issue of *Christophorus*, which is itself something of a world premiere, will show you. In just one magazine, we are presenting a vehicle from each series—namely, four different Porsches. That has never happened before. But the idea of a quartet will soon become familiar. In April, Porsche is presenting its new Panamera series in Shanghai, and launching it on the market in September.

Now we have to admit that this character test for the Porsche fleet arose more or less by chance. We received photos of the new 911 GT3 and 911 GT3 RSR, we were invited to Sicily for the presentation of the Boxster S, we have been driving the Cayenne diesel, and we have been studying the interior of the Panamera. The 911, the mid-engine series, the off-road vehicle, and the Gran Turismo—suddenly we had them all together, and once again it was clear to us

what the David among the Goliaths of the automobile industry is able to do. Because in all four sectors this year, the company is producing a new and improved vehicle.

This attitude is summed up by Hans-Jürgen Wöhler, for example, who is the series director for the Boxster S. “We want to make excellence even better,” he says at the car's presentation in Sicily. The photographer and the reporter generated true excitement on the Mediterranean island for the car in Guards Red, even though the Italians couldn't actually see the real masterpiece of this vehicle—its higher level of horsepower (310) combined with lower fuel consumption.

The same applies to the new members of the other three series. They all consume less fuel, yet have more power. This is evident immediately in the 911 GT3—in its optimized front, for example. The car has greater displacement and its aerodynamics have been further enhanced. Yet it still remains a 911. Its character will never change—and that is important for a Porsche. It is the seal of quality, so to speak, and it is also true of the Cayenne diesel. This diesel is already the seventh variant in the Cayenne family—and the only new thing that friends of the off-road vehicle have to do is drive up to a different pump.

This means that all of the newcomers have passed their tests of character. And the Panamera adds its own special touch. It displays that Porsche feeling in the backseat as well, where the passenger can push the “boss button” to get more legroom, because the front seat then moves forward. How often this button is pushed will be a matter of character, especially if the front seat is already occupied...



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