



Dream Cars
PEUGEOT
406 V6 COUPE

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COUPÉS

FRANCE
1997
PEUGEOT

Coupé lovers are a breed apart. They may love sports driving, but they are not keen on real sports cars. Saloons are just too big for them and cabriolets too inconvenient. They tend to be people of good taste, which is something the Peugeot 406 V6 Coupé has plenty of. It is a splendid combination of typical French chic and great Italian Pininfarina design.



Unfortunately, Peugeot contented themselves with half measures when fitting out the 406 Coupé; the cheap plastic clashes with the fine leather. When you fold the backs of the front seats forwards, the whole seat automatically slides forwards to make it easier to get into the back.

The Peugeot 406 V6 Coupé is the essence of elegance and fine proportions. This comes as no surprise, given that the bodywork and interior are the work of the famous Italian design studio, Pininfarina. There is one regrettable feature, however, which spoils an otherwise very attractive interior; the plastic parts give the detailing a rather cheap feel, especially in contrast with the sumptuous pale leather upholstery. The back seats are not particularly roomy for adult passengers, but that is to be expected of any typical 2+2 coupé. On the other hand, the fact that they fold away is a very welcome feature when it comes to carrying your skis, golf set or other awkward objects.

As soon as you turn the key, you forget about these details. The 191-hp output from the six-cylinder V-shape engine is delivered smoothly and regularly. The five-speed manual gearbox has an equally pleasant feel to it, though there is an automatic gearbox available as an option. The side windows have no protruding door pillar, which cuts down air resis-

Technical data

Dimensions and weight:

Length 4.62 m; width 1.78 m; height 1.36 m; weight 1536 kg.

Engine:

Six-cylinder V-shape; bore x stroke 87 x 82.6 mm; capacity 2946 cc; max. torque 267 Nm at 4000 rpm; power output 191 hp (140 kW) at 5500 rpm.

Performance:

Maximum speed 146 mph; acceleration (from 0 to 60 mph) 7.9 sec.; kilometre from a standing start 28.5 sec.

tance and eliminates noise. Another thoughtful luxury feature can be seen when you open the doors. The windows automatically go down a few centimetres and then close up again as soon as the doors are closed. This makes the doors easier to close and cuts out that unpleasant pressure on the eardrums as they thud shut.

A pleasure to drive

The Peugeot 406 Coupé's suspension would please the most demanding driver. It loves bends, and when the corners prove a little sharp its brakes are very responsive and there is plenty of power in reserve. Another point in its favour: it is also very easy to handle, and the light steering gives it an even better feel. The 406 Coupé is intended for someone who likes to travel at speed and in comfort, who wants enough room for a bit of luggage, but not the kitchen sink. It also appeals to people who appreciate cars as beautiful objects. And its classical good looks, with air-conditioning and leather upholstery as standard, all come at quite a reasonable price.

The V6 engine draws 191 hp from a capacity of nearly 3 litres. The maximum torque is 267 Nm at 4000 rpm.

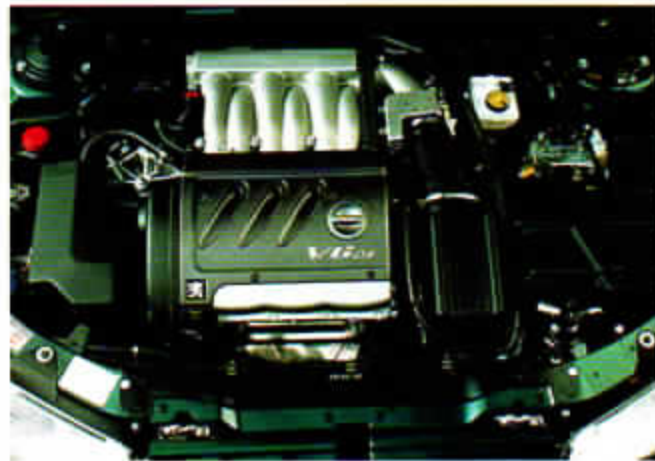


FIG. 1, 2, 3 Peugeot/Anch Weber D1 622 07-07