

The Fiat Punto evolutionised -by Liana Reiners

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The Fiat Punto is no stranger to the South African market. However, in 2012 guise, it is more elegant, more dynamic, more innovative and – for the first time in a Fiat vehicle – fitted with a so-called MultiAir engine. The range consists of four models, with three engine variants and three specification levels on offer.

First in the engine line-up is a 1,4-litre, 8V fully integrated robotic engine (FIRE), producing 57 kW at 6 000 r/min and 115 Nm of peak torque at 3 250 r/min. Next up is a 1,4-litre MultiAir unit producing 77 kW at 6 500 r/min and 130 Nm of peak torque at 4 000 r/min. The feather in the Punto's engine cap is the 1,4-litre MultiAir turbo engine with 99 kW and 206 Nm of peak torque on tap.

Fuel consumption figures are quoted at around 5,7 litres/100 km in the combined cycle for all models.

The three trim levels – Pop, Easy and Lounge – are aimed at different needs and budgets. The Pop level is available on the baseline Punto model and offers standard features such as electric power steering, air-conditioning, electrically operated front windows, a height and reach-adjustable steering wheel and so-called start/stop emissions mitigation technology.



The Easy trim level, as available on the 1.4 8V FIRE and 1.4 MultiAir models, adds niceties such as 15-inch alloy wheels and a CD MP3 compatible radio with steering wheel controls to the mix. Finally, the Lounge trim level is available exclusively on the 1.4 MultiAir Turbo model and includes a leather-covered steering wheel and gear knob, rear electric windows, centre armrest with storage compartment, dual-zone automatic climate control and 40/60 split rear seat bench.

On the safety side, two front airbags are standard across the range, while two window bags and a driver knee airbag are also standard on the Easy and the Lounge models. In addition, the two front side airbags which are standard on the Lounge are available as an option on the Easy models. The entire range features ABS and EBD, with the Lounge benefitting from ESP and hill-holder to help with hill-starts.

Pricing for the 2012 Punto range is as follows:

Punto 1.4 Pop	R129 900
Punto 1.4 Easy	R149 900
Punto 1.4 MultiAir Easy	R169 900
Punto 1.4 MultiAir Turbo Lounge	R209 900

