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Case study: Viano "X-clusive" by SORTIMO & DaimlerChrysler

Perfect travel comfort and flexibility!

Exclusive interior design and unparalleled flexibility in combination with space to spare and the dynamic handling properties of the Viano – this typifies the Mercedes-Benz VIANO X-clusive. The superlative combination of business, travel and leisure vehicle meets the ultimate in demands and is on a level with luxury limousines, exclusive yachts or private business planes. The VIANO X-clusive made its debut at the Motor Show 2004 in Bologna from 4th to 12th December.

Exquisite materials in a vehicle for the discriminating

Alone the materials used for the VIANO X-clusive – bamboo, aluminium and chrome, Alcantara, leather and Corian in marbled design – underline the fact that this is a vehicle for particularly discerning customers. Whether it is destined for use as a prestigious mobile office, a comfortable lounge, an exclusive full-size limousine for high-comfort travel or a high-grade leisure and recreation vehicle – the VIANO X-clusive is unusually versatile. The interior fittings form part of a modular system and make an important contribution towards the vehicle's versatility. The idea behind the VIANO X-clusive is an individual and high-class automobile based on series-production components and sophisticated modules.

The VIANO X-clusive greets its passengers behind the comfortable access through the wide sliding door with an elegantly illuminated entry lined with non-slip oiled bamboo. This material is also used for the floor in the rear of the vehicle as well as for the pull-out loading platform, and its very naturalness and high level of elegance emphasise the high standards of the study. The door trims and roof are lined with a composition of leather and Alcantara in a tasteful grey tone.

The passengers take their place in the rear of the vehicle on a leather-upholstered and electrically adjustable two-seater seating arrangement. Its design bases on the bench seat of the Viano and therefore also fulfils all crash safety requirements. The wide arm rests to the left and right are also covered with Alcantara and are equipped with chrome-plated cup holders. Electric console tables are concealed in the side trim. Chrome-plated storage trays and newspaper pockets in solid bamboo complement the exclusive elegance of the whole. A lockable and illuminated bar with space for bottles and glasses in the rear of the VIANO X-clusive conjures up the relaxed atmosphere of an exclusive lounge. A powerful sound system was also integrated to ensure pleasurable and easy listening.

Espresso machine, water dispenser and cooled bottle safe

A central element of the VIANO X-clusive is a lounge module in the form of a quadrant integrated into the side of the driver's seat. The wine-red acrylic glass in the front, satin-finish acrylic glass at the side and a work surface made of marbled Corian underline the exclusive character of the interior fittings. Two cleverly integrated strip lights form part of the illumination concept. The basis of the module is a self-supporting structure made of aluminium.

And when it's time for a break or a business discussion on board or simply for working in a relaxed atmosphere, there is a water dispenser with cooling unit, an electrically extendible espresso machine and a cooled bottle safe. Everything – including the necessary tableware – is integrated perfectly into the module.

A multimedia module is also available as an option. Among other things, it includes a PC with e-mail and Internet access, a digital TV and DVD player, fax, connections for up to four telephones and games consoles. Another option is a service module which contains a microwave, gas cooker, hot server, refrigerator and the necessary stowage.

The luggage is stored in the exclusive luggage section behind the bar on a pull-out loading platform of oiled bamboo laminboard. To the side, large sectioned compartments are located at a comfortable height to accommodate work documents or small items of luggage, and are protected from view by roller blinds.

Individual division of space possible

Dependent on customer requirements and the application, the flexible VIANO X-clusive modules in a host of different variants and combinations allow a multitude of individual solutions. Additional seats or an enlarged stowage area are just as possible as customisation of the entire interior compartment. The target groups for the VIANO X-clusive are discriminating travellers, companies seeking a conference vehicle for management-level staff, field service staff with a penchant for a prestigious mobile office and shuttle service companies.

The versatile Mercedes-Benz Viano offers the suitable platform for the study. Powerful motors of up to 170 kW (231 PS) output coupled with the safe and comfortable chassis with rear-wheel drive and pneumatic suspension form the basis for supreme driving performance and a high degree of long-distance travel comfort.

The comprehensive standard safety equipment of the Viano comprises among other things generously dimensioned disc brakes, ABS, braking assistant (BAS), ASR, vehicle handling control system (ESP), as well as front airbags for the driver and front passenger as well as thorax side airbags. The safety technology is therefore also on a level with that of luxury limousines, whereby the VIANO X-clusive constitutes an extremely attractive alternative.

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