

FERRARI 458 ITALIA IS THE 2011 WORLD PERFORMANCE CAR OF THE YEAR



The Ferrari 458 Italia has been elected 2011 World Performance Car of the Year by a jury of the world's leading motoring writers.

The Ferrari 458 Italia was chosen from an initial entry list of fourteen new cars from all over the world, then a short list of ten, then three finalists: the Ferrari 458 Italia, the Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG, and the Porsche 911 Turbo.

"Ferrari's goal in engineering the 458 Italia was to match the technology and extreme performance developed for Ferrari's racing activities with the demands of Ferrari owners, who wish to enjoy their cars on the road and experience the unique emotions that only a Ferrari can provide" says Kevin Wall, General Manager for Ferrari in Australia and New Zealand. "The presentation of the award as 2011 World Performance Car, joining a long list of awards presented to the 458 Italia, proves that these goals have not just been met, but exceeded."

The World Car Awards jurors observed that, "The replacement for the Ferrari F430 has been voted by nearly every possible ranking this past year as the best performer hands down. The WCA's would love to break ranks with the crowd, but we also put the 458 Italia squarely among our top three world performance cars. Whether on the track or on a loosely policed winding two-lane mountain road, the technology on board the 458 sets it and its 570 horsepower far ahead of most every other V8-powered street car. This is a classic modern Ferrari in every sense, but its sophisticated handling abilities at the limit take it to a whole new level for Italian super GTs. And what a beautiful sound it produces."

Candidates for the World Performance Car award must demonstrate a specific and overt sports/performance orientation while satisfying the same availability criteria as for the overall World Car of the Year award. Candidates may be chosen from the World Car of the Year list of eligible vehicles, or they may be newly introduced variants that satisfy the same criteria, but are derived from existing rather than brand-new models. In all cases, they must have a minimum annual production rate of five-hundred (500) vehicles.

Previous World Performance Car winners were the Audi R8 V10 in 2010, the Nissan GT-R in 2009, the Audi R8 in 2008, the Audi RS4 in 2007 and the Porsche Cayman S in 2006.

Vehicles are selected and voted on by an international jury panel comprised of sixty-six top-level automotive journalists from twenty-four countries around the world. Each juror was appointed by the World Car Steering Committee on the basis of his or her expertise, experience, credibility, and influence. Each juror typically drives and evaluates new vehicles on a regular basis as part of their professional work. Through their respective outlets they collectively reach an audience of many millions world-wide.



Now in their seventh year, the annual World Car awards have become one of the world's most prestigious, credible and significant programs of its kind.

The awards were inaugurated in 2003, and officially launched in January 2004, to reflect the reality of the global marketplace, as well as to recognize and reward automotive excellence on an international scale. The awards are intended to complement, not compete, with existing national and regional Car of the Year programs.

The awards are administered by a non-profit association, under the guidance of a Steering Committee of pre-eminent automotive journalists from Asia, Europe, and North America. Peter Lyon (Japan) and Matt Davis (Italy) are the co-chairs; John McCormick (USA), Jens Meiners (Germany) and Gerry Malloy (Canada) are the directors. There is no affiliation with,

nor are the awards in any way influenced by any publication, auto show, automaker, or other commercial enterprise.