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HEIDI KLUM PHOTOGRAPHED EXCLUSIVELY FOR ESQUIRE BY RANKIN



WILLIAM BOYD, IMRAN KHAN, IRVINE WELSH & THE KILLERS

DRIVING FORCE The best car clubs

→ If the idea of owning and running a supercar seems like too much effort (OK, maybe money is a factor too), then you may want to consider the services of a car club. Sure, you don't get the status that ownership brings, but neither do you get the mechanics' bills or the storage problems. You just get a shiny car, full of petrol, when and where you need it.

The Classic Car Club came up with the concept 11 years ago, but since then others have emerged with their own take on the same idea. An annual fee is translated into points, which are used up depending on the cars you choose (they're split into categories depending on their value) and the number of days used (weekends are more expensive than weekdays, and most clubs charge more in summer). All the clubs allow some flexibility on how many points you can buy each year and some also limit your mileage.

Classic Car Club

Best for: people who don't own a car
Joining fee: £500
Annual membership: from £3,000
Members per car: 8
Average days per year: 30-40
Enquiries: 020 7490 9090;
www.classiccarclub.co.uk



The only club that could, conceivably, replace car ownership because its stable includes sensible things (Volvo T-5) as well as supercars. The cars tend, obviously, towards the vintage but there's still a good range of Ferraris (think *Magnum* era), Porsches and Jaguars. It's also the cheapest of the clubs to join. What's stopping you?

Revo250

Best for: replacing Hertz when you're next on holiday
Joining fee: £7,500
Annual membership: from €15,000
Members per car: 8
Average days per year (basic membership): 20
Enquiries: www.revo250.com



Having started on the Côte d'Azur, Revo now operates in Miami, Marbella, Geneva, Milan and Dubai and is coming to London this autumn. The cars are all top-end (Porsche's Cayman S is their most modest offering) but the big sell is that points can also be used to take out yachts on the Med. The club also offers a hassle-free travel concierge service and a diary of events that ranges from parties at Nikki Beach to days at the Cheltenham Festival.

Ecurie25

Best for: those ready to start dabbling with supercars
Joining fee: £750
Annual membership: from €4,500
Members per car: 6
Average days per year: 35-40
Enquiries: 020 7159 2543;
www.ecurie25.co.uk



New kid on the block Ecurie is based in East London and offers an enviable range of the latest cars. At the top end this means Aston Martin's Vantage, Lambo's Gallardo and Porsche's 911 turbo while your points will go much further if you plump for pocket rockets like a Caterham CSR260 or a Lotus Exige.

P1

Best for: people who want it all
Joining fee: £2,500
Annual membership: from £11,750
Members per car: 6
Average days per year (basic membership): 50
Enquiries: 01372 374 400;
www.p1international.com



Damon Hill's P1, based in Surrey, is the gold standard of car clubs, with a large and varied fleet with something for everyone, and every situation. Need something practical - how about a Porsche Cayenne Turbo? Need something impractical - how about a Lamborghini Murciélago? The fleet is frequently updated to keep the cars in mint condition and members use it to test drive their next purchase, as well as play the field. Probably as much fun as 12 grand can (legally) buy in a year. Expect the Cheshire outpost to make the news when it opens in September.