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SUNDAY EXPRESS

Boys' toys

Amazing treats to
make Father's Day

Win! Win! Win!

A fabulous £3,000
family holiday
in Corfu

*Cameron
Diaz*

Is it happy ever after for Shrek's fairytale princess?

The daddy of all treats

From supercars and golf swing sessions to sampling a wee dram or three, we try out the best boys' toys for Father's Day. So go on, make his day...



Sean Bennett sizes up the supercar options at *écurie25* for "two of the most thrilling days of my life"

The supercar club

Inside every man, there is a Jeremy Clarkson struggling to get out. Trouble is, the average fire-breathing supercar costs more than your house, won't fit in your garage, and has barely enough luggage space for a toothpick. So most of us settle for a diesel-sipping hatchback and dream on.

But there is another way. Set up in 2005, supercar club *écurie25* can put you in the driving seat of the most exciting cars on the road. Pay the membership fee, and brand-new Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Bentleys and Astons are yours for the asking.

Cars are allocated on a simple points system: you're given 600 points when you join, and you use them up as you drive. That means you'll enjoy up to 40 days and 5,000 miles in a fleet of motors worth millions, and it won't cost you a

penny in insurance, depreciation or garage bills. So when they offered me a brief taste of life in the fast lane, I said, 'Yes please' in Ferrari-quick time.

Signed up and armed with a member's pack, I arranged to pop along for one of the club's frequent open evenings so I could size up the fleet. Being a supercar virgin I was also advised to try one of its driver development days so that I could get used to driving one of these mega-powerful monsters.

I returned a week later to meet Mark Coaten, one of *écurie25*'s driver development experts, for a short course in 'hazard management'. We went out in a BMW M5 (a saloon with

about five times the power of the average runabout) and spent the day running over the dos and don'ts of handling an automobile with such awesome performance. It also gave me the chance to get some miles under my belt and increase my confidence, while Mark assessed whether I should be let loose for a couple of days of unsupervised fun. To my relief I was deemed roadworthy.

Booking a car couldn't be simpler; you can either do it online or over the phone. With my choice of chariot made, I was counting the days until my drive like a small child waiting for Christmas. When the day finally came, I was handed the keys to a silver Ferrari 360 Spider. The staff made sure I was relaxed, confident and fully briefed before I headed off for 48 hours of driving heaven.

I can honestly say that those were two of the most thrilling days of my

life. The sheer enjoyment I felt – from the thrum of the engine to the steady stream of gawping passers-by – is virtually indescribable. I hardly stopped smiling. But the look on my 11-year-old son's face when I picked him up from school was even better, as he climbed into a Ferrari with all his friends looking on.

The biggest surprise of all came when taking my delighted two-year-old daughter for a spin, prompting squeals of "Faster Daddy, go faster!" It seems that being a speed freak runs in the family.

All too soon I had to hand back the keys and return to Planet Earth – sadly, for good. With membership costing nearly 10 grand a year I won't be signing up just yet. But I have to say, compared to the cost of running one supercar, never mind a fleet, *écurie25* offers outstanding value. And if you're in the market for the ultimate Father's Day treat, trust me – this is it.

Sean Bennett

Membership of *écurie25* costs £9,950. Visit www.ecurie25.co.uk or call 020 7159 2543.

Whisky galore

Despite what people say, dads are very easy to buy presents for. We like socks, so we don't have to buy our own, and we like whisky. And the ultimate gift for a whisky buff must be a trip to the Academy at Bruichladdich distillery, on the Hebridean island of Islay.

Here in this beautiful setting, my fellow academicians and I were to experience the mysteries of whisky-making, the Bruichladdich way. And a very hands-on experience it is, too. Unlike the other distilleries on the island, the only computers here are in the offices. Traditional methods and Victorian equipment are still in use and we spent three fascinating days discovering how they work.

To make single malt it seems you need to be a combination of chemist, artist and builder. Kitted out in