## Portland Observer Auto Review News and reviews on new motor vehicles

### 2008 BMW 528i Sedan

### More Power - More Pleasure

BY KATHLEEN CARR

doesn't look markedly different. 17-inch V-rated all-season tires. BMW calls it a "significant fresh-

driving. The least expensive of the front bumper curls up in the corners BMW's high-tech magnesium al- lights. lov 3.0-liter inline 6. The new sixand 15 pound-feet.

The standard transmission on turn signals are now LEDs. the 528i is a Getrag 6-speed manual, which is increasingly hard to find in find the five-passenger 5 Series a and passenger-friendly accommo-intervention. Yet the new Stop and thing you could ask for in a luxury

acceleration is 0.8 second quicker Change doesn't have to be dra- with manual shift, and 0.5 second matic to be meaningful. Despite swifter with Steptronic six-speed revised front and rear styling, for automatic, than the prior 525i. Staninstance, the 2008 5 Series sedan dard alloy wheels on the 528i hold

The 2008 tweaks start in front, ening." Under the hood, though, where the headlight covers are now six-cylinder models have earned a completely clear, with chrome surmajor power boost- now consid- rounds highlighting individual ered the most powerful six-cylinder lights inside. The chrome edging sedans and sports wagons to date. on BMW's trademark double-kid-The basic character hasn't ney grille is now flush with the changed a bit, because every 5 surface on the front air dam, while Series puts an emphasis on the the full-width air intake below the 5 Series is the 528i, powered by to match the shape of the head-

cylinder engine develops its 230 side sills have been re-contoured a tight spaces or park. horsepower at 6500 rpm, plus 200 bit for 2008, apparently to promote

this class. BMW says 0-60 mph near-perfect size. It seems more dations in fairly compact package. Go system works even in heavy sedan, including the features, com-



Specifications: 3.0-liter, DOHC, 24-valve Inline-V6 230-hp@200 lb-ft. torque engine; 6-speed manual transmission; 17-City, 27-Highway MPG; \$55,525. MSRP

substantial than some small luxury

or sport sedans, with more usable added for 2008. BMW's Lane De-brakes with Dynamic Brake Control interior space. At the same time it's parture Warning system is camera auto-proportioning, Dynamic Tracno as physically bulky as large se- based, and notifies the driver via tion Control, Dynamic Stability Below the doors, the 5 Series dans, and easier to maneuver in mildsteering-wheelvibration of any Control anti-skid electronics, movement that might indicate an seatbelt pretensioners and force The BMW 5 Series is a true inadvertent lane change. The new limiters. The standard BMW Aspound-feet of torque at 2750 rpm. a longer, leaner look. In back, the driver's car among mid-sized luxury Stop and Go feature for Active sist communication package in-That's an increase of 15 horsepower rear lights are covered with the same sedans. Increased power and other Cruise Control is space age. Like cludes automatic collision notificaclear glass as the fronts, and the improvements for 2008 only em- the previous system, it uses radar tion, an SOS button, roadside asphasize this. The 5 mixes comfort, to keep the 5 Series from moving to sistance and locater service. Looks aside, many buyers will performance, high-tech features close to a car ahead, without driver

dating speeds all the way down to a complete stop, and resuming to the set speed from 0 mph.

includes threshold deployment, front-passenger side airbags and curtain-style headprotection airbags for all outboard passengers. All 5 Se-

Two big ticket options have been ries models come with antilock

This car has just about every-

traffic, accommo- fort and convenience of full-size luxury models, the sporting character of smaller ones, and a good compromise between interior space and physical bulk.

The 528i come with leatherette Safety features upholstery, dual-zone automatic nearly cover the climate control with active microgamut. Passive filtration, an AM/FM/CD stereo safety equipment with 10 speakers, 17-inch alloy front wheels, four power outlets and a airbags with dual rechargeable flashlight in the glove

Always a solid road/touring car, the 5 Series line gets even more selfassured with each iteration. There's nothing flashy with any 5 Series BMW-just serious driving performance, created for accomplishment rather than show.

This is a good, honest sedan in the BMW tradition, with a comfortable ride, precise steering and nice, sharp handling, and without a lot of high-tech stuff to muddle the picture. This mid-size luxury sedan remains a true sports sedan in any of its variations.

Regardless of engine size or equipment level, the 5 Series line delivers lively acceleration, precise handling and outstanding

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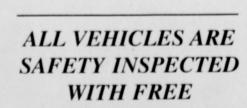
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