

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2008 BMW 528i Sedan

### More Power – More Pleasure

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Change doesn't have to be dramatic to be meaningful. Despite revised front and rear styling, for instance, the 2008 5 Series sedan doesn't look markedly different. BMW calls it a "significant freshening." Under the hood, though, six-cylinder models have earned a major power boost—now considered the most powerful six-cylinder sedans and sports wagons to date.

The basic character hasn't changed a bit, because every 5 Series puts an emphasis on the driving. The least expensive of the 5 Series is the 528i, powered by BMW's high-tech magnesium alloy 3.0-liter inline 6. The new six-cylinder engine develops its 230 horsepower at 6500 rpm, plus 200 pound-feet of torque at 2750 rpm. That's an increase of 15 horsepower and 15 pound-feet.

The standard transmission on the 528i is a Getrag 6-speed manual, which is increasingly hard to find in this class. BMW says 0-60 mph

acceleration is 0.8 second quicker with manual shift, and 0.5 second swifter with Steptronic six-speed automatic, than the prior 525i. Standard alloy wheels on the 528i hold 17-inch V-rated all-season tires.

The 2008 tweaks start in front, where the headlight covers are now completely clear, with chrome surrounds highlighting individual lights inside. The chrome edging on BMW's trademark double-kidney grille is now flush with the surface on the front air dam, while the full-width air intake below the front bumper curls up in the corners to match the shape of the headlights.

Below the doors, the 5 Series side sills have been re-contoured a bit for 2008, apparently to promote a longer, leaner look. In back, the rear lights are covered with the same clear glass as the fronts, and the turn signals are now LEDs.

Looks aside, many buyers will find the five-passenger 5 Series a near-perfect size. It seems more



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 interior space. At the same time it's no as physically bulky as large sedans, and easier to maneuver in tight spaces or park.

The BMW 5 Series is a true driver's car among mid-sized luxury sedans. Increased power and other improvements for 2008 only emphasize this. The 5 mixes comfort, performance, high-tech features and passenger-friendly accommodations in fairly compact package.

Two big ticket options have been added for 2008. BMW's Lane Departure Warning system is camera based, and notifies the driver via mild steering-wheel vibration of any movement that might indicate an inadvertent lane change. The new Stop and Go feature for Active Cruise Control is space age. Like the previous system, it uses radar to keep the 5 Series from moving too close to a car ahead, without driver intervention. Yet the new Stop and Go system works even in heavy

traffic, accommodating speeds all the way down to a complete stop, and resuming to the set speed from 0 mph. Safety features nearly cover the gamut. Passive safety equipment includes front airbags with dual threshold deployment, front-passenger side airbags and curtain-style head-protection airbags for all outboard passengers. All 5 Series models come with antilock brakes with Dynamic Brake Control auto-proportioning, Dynamic Traction Control, Dynamic Stability Control anti-skid electronics, seatbelt pretensioners and force limiters. The standard BMW Assist communication package includes automatic collision notification, an SOS button, roadside assistance and locator service.

This car has just about everything you could ask for in a luxury sedan, including the features, com-

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 upholstery, dual-zone automatic climate control with active micro-filtration, an AM/FM/CD stereo with 10 speakers, 17-inch alloy wheels, four power outlets and a rechargeable flashlight in the glove box.

Always a solid road/touring car, the 5 Series line gets even more self-assured 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 brakes.



# AUTO SALES

## THE LOW PRICE LEADER

www.captainyes.com • 503-515-8628



Stock No: 19818  
**2004 Saturn Ion L4**  
4 Door Sedan  
2.2-Liter, 16-Valve  
5-Speed Manual, FWD  
Our Special \$8,888



Stock No: 20583  
**2003 Chevrolet Blazer LS**  
4 Door Wagon  
V6, 4.3-Liter, Auto, 4WD  
Our Special \$9,888



Stock No: 21214  
**2001 Honda Accord EX**  
2 Door Coupe Mileage: 73,901  
2.3-Liter, 16-Valve, VTEC, 4-Speed Auto, FWD



Stock No: 21186  
**2001 Toyota Echo**  
2 Door Coupe Mileage: 96,340  
1.5-Liter, DOHC 16-Valve, Auto, FWD



Stock No: 20751  
**2002 Ford F150 Lariat**  
Super Cab  
V8, 5.4-Liter, Auto, 4WD



Stock No: 21451  
**2002 Honda Odyssey EX**  
4 Door Van Mileage: 86,507  
3.5-Liter, V6, 5-Speed Auto, FWD



Stock No: 21232  
**2003 Toyota Camry LE**  
4 Door Sedan  
2.4-Liter, DOHC, Auto, FWD



Stock No: 21286  
**2004 Ford Mustang**  
2 Door Convertible Mileage: 40,995  
4.6-liter, V8, SOHC, 16-Valve, Auto, RWD



Stock No: 21222  
**2004 Honda Element EX**  
4 Door Wagon Mileage: 47,183  
2.4-Liter, 4-Speed Auto, 4WD



Stock No: 21359  
**2005 Chrysler Town & Country**  
3 Door Van Mileage: 53,066  
3.3-Liter, V6, Auto, FWD



Stock No: 21080  
**2005 Jeep Wrangler X**  
2 Door Wagon Mileage: 47,061  
4.0-Liter, Manual, 4WD



Stock No: 21099  
**2005 Scion xB**  
4 Door Wagon Mileage: 20,424  
1.5-Liter, 5-Speed Manual, FWD



Stock No: 21029  
**2007 Dodge Caliber**  
4 Door Hatchback Mileage: 15,876  
2.0-Liter, Auto, FWD

ALL VEHICLES ARE SAFETY INSPECTED WITH FREE



• Spanish Speaking Help (*español*) • Loan by phone  
• BBB member • Good/No/Bad Credit • over 300 cars  
**GAGE AUTO SALES** 13432 SE McLoughlin Blvd, Portland, OR 97222



ask for Lucky  
wallerlouis@yahoo.com