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2020 Mercedes-AMG GT R Roadster

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MERCEDES-AMG created their hardcore GT R coupe using a simple formula. The brand took its GT3 racing technology and distilled it into a streetable form. The result is an all-out luxury performer that can easily take on banked track corners, as well as around town boulevard cruising.

Now, with the arrival of summer, a drop-top is being made available, too. The 2020 GT R Roadster promises just as much performance capabilities as its hardtop counterpart.

Positioned under the hood sits a 4.0-liter V8 Biturbo, which produces 577 hp and 516 lb-ft of torque. That'll shoot the convertible from 0 to 60 mph in 3.5 seconds and attain a top speed of 197 mph.

All kinds of technology are employed to attain these figures while giving excellent handling characteristics. There's lots of active cooling and aerodynamics, including a flat funnel element under the supercar. The front opening is wider than the back, taking in more air than what's being let out. This creates a Venturi effect, sucking the vehicle to the road.

Another tech trick is active rear-wheel steering. Using electric motors, the back wheels will turn in conjunction with the front. Not only does that help in high-speed cornering, its smaller turning circle aids in more everyday situations, like city navigating and parking.



Each roadster gets a numbered badge on the center console. The performance seats come in Exclusive Nappa Leather with Diamond Stitching.

Pounds are reduced through lightweight items like carbon fiber front fenders, forged wheels, titanium in the exhaust system, and aluminum alloys in the chassis and body.

The roadster's biggest change from the coupe is the roof. It's now a three-layered fabric soft top, supported by a lightweight magnesium, steel, and aluminum structure. For those chillier drives, Mercedes' AIRSCARF system comes standard. That includes vents integrated into the base of the head restraints, which blow heat onto passengers' necks.



If you love open-air fun-in-the-sun motoring and have a heavy right foot, act fast. Only 750 examples will be offered this fall with pricing starting at \$189,650. 

Matt Avery is an automotive author and historian. His new book, "COPO", documents Chevy's ultimate muscle cars, showcasing over 40 of the world's best COPO examples. Learn more at [COPothebook.com](http://COPothebook.com)