

## The mighty MiTo

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**Ain't Alf hot ... Phil tries out Alfa's sizzling Marangoni**

**THE Alfa Romeo MiTo looks like a mini supercar — now it has the power to go with it!**

The MiTo already looks like a small version of their utterly beautiful 8C Competizione supercar. Now it's even more eye-catching.



**Flashy ... gull-wing doors**

This is the outrageous Marangoni M430, a one-off edition of Alfa's new baby that comes with design inspiration from the Ferrari F430 and Lamborghini Countach — and power that matches a huge Audi Q7.

*The M430 is the hottest version of the MiTo yet and it's a close*

*indication of how the official Alfa GTA hot*

*hatch will look and perform when it arrives later this year.*

We've just had a first UK drive of the M430 and it's Italian through and through, with sharp style and potent performance.

It's been made by Rome-based tyre firm Marangoni and tuning company TRC and takes its front intakes and name from the Ferrari F430.

At the rear is a huge carbon fibre diffuser and quad exhaust tailpipes.

And when it comes to the M430's doors, it seems that Lamborghini's Countach has provided the design cue — the scissor units open in a similar way to those on the legendary supercar.

There are also 18-inch black alloys, special Marangoni Mythos tyres made of red rubber, a tyre pattern print on the bonnet and two-tone red and white paintwork — and the suspension has been lowered by 40mm for a really sporty road-hugging appeal.

It's even madder inside with the Italian flag on the sports seats and Swarovski crystals inserted into the leather gearshift collar, handbrake and pedals.

The M430 is like a wayward brother to the standard MiTo — Prince Harry compared to Prince William. It likes to get wild and let loose.

The range-topping 1.4-litre T-Jet MiTo delivers 155bhp, but the M340 offers 233bhp, thanks to a new turbo, injectors, a reprogrammed ECU and stainless steel exhaust. That delivers 0-62mph in 6.6 seconds and a whopping top speed of 158mph. However it's a strange experience behind the wheel.

Floor the throttle and nothing happens for a few seconds because there is so much turbo lag.



**One-off ... M430 has quad exhaust tailpipes**

But then, in full Archie MacPherson mode, WOOOOOOOF — all hell breaks loose with a rushing sound from the turbo kicking in and a bark from the exhaust as the MiTo roars through the gears with savage acceleration.

Anyone can do 100mph in a Ferrari or Lambo without causing alarm to their underwear, but this MiTo is a bit bottom-

twitching at high speed.

*The steering is very light and the car moves a lot as it accelerates and the brakes need to be warm to work in an instant.*

When Alfa does reveal its MiTo GTA — which will boast 230bhp thanks to a new 1,750cc turbo engine — it's likely to be a lot easier to live with.

But the M430 is a spectacular taste of the future. And you can get your hands on a MiTo just like this — at a price.

Marangoni are making the engine upgrades, brakes and bodykit — although not the doors — available at the end of this month for an extra £10,000 over the cost of the standard car.

It's a mighty price — but the mightiest MiTo on the planet.

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