

Book Reviews for Porschephiles

by Bruce Herrington, Orange Coast Region

POSCHÉ Boxster and Cayman, the Complete Story

by Johnny Tipler, published 2016 by Crowood Press, Ramsbury, Marlborough, UK



More than most Boxster books, this provides great homage, in pictures and text, to the 4-cyl, air cooled Spyders. The index lists nine references to the 550 Spyder, eighteen to the 718 Spyder, five to the 904, as compared with only four references to the 718 Boxster. Coverage of the Boxster and Cayman is quite complete from the Boxster concept of the 1993 Detroit Motor Show through the Boxster Spyder and the Cayman GT4, marking the end of the 6-cylinder era for these cars.

The introduction provides a very comprehensive summary of the genesis and evolution of the Boxster and Cayman models. Chapter 1 "Antecedents", deals with the original Spyders, the 910 racer and the 914. Chapters 2-7 deal with the details of the models and the year by year changes, and includes (in Chapter 2) an extensive interview with Harm Lagaij, Porsche's Head of Design during the gestation of the Boxster. Chapters 8 & 9 deal with driving and racing/modifying respectively. The Cayman is given incidental mention in the appropriate Boxster year-model chapters, then full coverage in the Cayman-specific Chapter 7.

PORSCHE Boxster and Cayman is profusely illustrated. Some pictures look strange because the cars are right hand drive or are on the *wrong* side of the road. The arch typical twisty drive in this book is "The Snake" not "The Tail of The Dragon." True, the Corkscrew at Laguna Seca and The Downhill at Lime Rock are mentioned as prototypes for The Mouse Trap at Blister Berg (a track that is described in detail), but most of the track references are meaningless to Americans.

The narrative gives complete description of the evolution of Boxster (and Cayman) design, plus performance factors and aesthetic considerations. The introduction of various options is discussed as well as when some of them became standard. For the less literary inclined, there are very comprehensive specification tables inserted in the appropriate places in the text. These tables, provided for every generation and model (and indeed there are many), are gold mines of information for anyone interested in these cars.

The chapter "Driving the Boxster and Cayman" is almost more about the local(s) and the road(s) than about the car, its performance and handling, or cockpit conveniences. It is still interesting to read and gushingly enthusiastic about traveling in a Boxster. Interestingly, this chapter includes something of a comparison test with a 2005 Harley-Davidson V-Rod and a comprehensive race report of the 2014 24 Hours of Nürburgring! Travel references to Route 500 and A8 are unfamiliar though acceptable, but the section titled Rocky Mountain Highs is somewhat off-putting when it becomes clear that the subject is a 500 mile loop drive in Scotland.

The Competition and Modification chapter is mostly about companies in UK (and RUF in Germany) that perform modifications or provide aftermarket upgrades, but the concepts described are applicable whomever the supplier of components.

PORSCHE Boxster and Cayman does indeed provide a very complete story of the 6 cylinder Boxsters and Caymans, and contains 192, 8-1/2 x 11 inch pages with many photos and a comprehensive index. It is formatted to be an interesting read as well as an efficient reference book. A must for any dedicated Boxster/Cayman enthusiast, owner or not. It might be available for \$44.95 from your favorite book seller (ask for it), or from <http://www.amazon.com/books>.

