

# quattro® quarterly

Fall 2010

**Audi's A7 Unveiled**  
**LeMans and Vorsprung durch Technik**  
**Monterey Weekend Drive**  
**The Most Extreme Bentley**



# quattro quarterly

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Photo: Audi AG

Audi A7

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Photo: Mihaljo Veselinovik

Ingolstadt Museum



Photo: Mihaljo Veselinovik

Audi Forum Ingolstadt



Photo: Andreas Dharmawan

Andreas Dharmawan explores Monterey Bay.



Photo: Audi AG

A7 unveiled

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# Weekend Drive: V10 S6 and Supercharged V6 A6

by Andreas Dharmawan

Photos by D. Ardiwinata and T. Lee



*To car enthusiasts, Monterey Bay is one of the special places in Northern California.*

IN ADDITION TO MESMERIZING COAST LINE ROADS, blue ocean, temperate climate and mouth watering seafood, this place hosts many high speed and historic racing events. Laguna Seca circuit is located just a few miles west of Monterey Bay's sand dunes off Highway 1.

Due to the rolling hills and valleys that make up the region's landscape, Laguna Seca circuit features the greatly respected and challenging high speed turns, switchbacks and hairpins. The elevation changes on the turns give the continuous 3D racing experience that is rather unique to this circuit. The famous corkscrew turn pushes not only the limit of the drivers but also to the engineering teams that build and tune the chassis, suspension and brake. Even Avatar 3D movie could not match the thrilling ride that will make any driver's heartbeat run at overdrive with an ear-to-ear smile on his face. The runaway crisscross sinuous rubber marks on the turns and the markings on the barriers are constant reminders of how dangerous and challenging this course is.

American LeMans Series, Red Bull U.S. Grand Prix MotoGP, and Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion are the world famous races held yearly here. There are also many regional and club races that keep the place busy almost all year round. Several times a year, international racing teams, journalists and racing fans fill Monterey Bay with electrifying energies and hives of activities. Diehard racing fans search for televised, real time or recorded, broadcasts of these events at pubs in

London, tapas bars in Spain, Haufbrauhaus in Germany, chic lounges in Hong Kong, sake bars in Japan and internet cafes in South Korea.

Occasionally though, there is no international event at Monterey Bay, not even U.S. Open Golf Tournament at Pebble Beach. No fans line up waiting for autographs of sports celebrities. At times like this, only locals are seen at Cannery Row coffee houses reading *Monterey County Herald* newspapers over blueberry muffins and bold coffee. A few domestic tourists are sightseeing, buying colorful salt water taffy candies and visiting the world famous Monterey Bay aquarium.

No loud noises, no cheering, no lines and no crowds; it is serene. And a weekend like this was when we decided to take the two siblings, 2009 5.2 V10 S6 and 2010 3.0T A6, for a leisure weekend drive with friends to Monterey Bay.

## **CANNERY ROW**

The large red brick building with white-frame evenly spaced windows and the wooden wild-wild west saloon buildings along the Cannery Row used to be the epicenter of the sardine canning industry. Today, these buildings host restaurants, hotels and shops catered to locals and visitors.

The traffic on this late Saturday morning was light as the wine tour buses had not arrived. A 1950s Corvette, a 1970s classic Camaro and a Firebird were spotted here. The aroma



Photos: Andreas Dharmawan



# Weekend Drive: V10 S6 and Supercharged V6 A6

of coffee and breakfast foods with a hint of ocean salt filled the air. The sounds of harbor seals, sea otters and pelicans could be heard from the direction of the Fisherman's Wharf.

John and Imelda drove their recently acquired 2010 supercharged A6 while Daniel and Marie drove their 2009 5.2 V10 S6. John and Imelda were looking for a family car, large enough for a family of three. Previously, they always owned BMWs and Lexus. After stumbling upon the *Car & Driver* article that placed A6 in the number one spot in a comparison study of Audi A6, BMW 535i, Infinity M45, Jaguar XF and Mercedes E350, they decided to try an Audi. Within a few minutes in an A6, without hesitation, they purchased their first Audi.

Daniel and Marie had always been looking for something distinguished to match their non-conformist personality. After comparing the AMGs, the Ms, and the S6, they chose S6 for its Lamborghini engine and the balance among monstrous power, comfort, progressive design and practicality.

We didn't have a grand plan for the day, a course to conquer or a schedule to meet. Our mission was simple, enjoy the day with our fine cars.

## 17-MILE DRIVE

At the Spanish Bay in Del Monte forest, the tuna tartar open sandwich was what some of us had for lunch. Slightly sweet crab meat spread on the top of freshly baked rustic sliced bread was followed by chopped lettuce and a few slices of bacon. Finally, the tuna tartar and micro greens topped the arrangement. Drips of extra virgin light green olive oil adorned the plate and added a distinct flavor to an already delightful lunch. The combination of flavors woke our palates and satisfied our hunger.

Through floor-to-ceiling windows of the dining room, a green golf course, The Links, with its white sand bunkers filled the view. On the other side, in some distance, waves hitting rock formations with the backdrop of Monterey Bay crescent completed the mesmerizing panoramic view.

From the Monterey Bay gate, the 17-Mile Drive road winds through the thick shadowy Del Monte forest. A few small, medium and large beautiful mansions give the exclusive ambience to this place. After

a few miles, the road leaves the forest and hugs the curvy coast line. The view opens up. Here, shaped by the constant ocean wind, leaning cypress trees highlight the rolling green landscape. On the opposite side, the foamy waves hit the rock formations and cliffs. From one vantage point, one can see a winding road switching back and forth through the picturesque landscape.

There are many vista points along this road, named for their respective features. Bird Rock features thousands of birds, seals and sea lions on towering offshore rocks. The Lone Cypress is a trademark view of a cypress tree perched on a rock. Fanshell Overlook provides a vista to a white sand beach where seals molt seasonally. The Ghost Tree hosts bleached white Monterey Cypress trees looking dead as driftwoods. And the Restless Sea demonstrates the mighty power of crashing waves.

The empty road tempted us a little. Maintaining a safe speed for this road, we let the siblings play a bit. We opened the windows and sunroofs to let the fresh air touch us. The sonorous 435 hp and 398 lbs-ft V10 sound on acceleration was matched by the whirling 300 hp and 310 lb-ft supercharged V6. Going through a series of switchbacks with elevation change, we accelerated and decelerated rhythmically. We didn't want the switchbacks to end as we were enjoying the soundtracks from our cars.

## 5.2 V10 S6

More momentum is generated when a heavier body of mass accelerates than the momentum generated by a lighter body of mass accelerating at the same rate. More momentum means more effort required to change the direction of motion. Given S6 blistering acceleration rate, 0-60 mph in 5.1 seconds, and its total curb weight of about 4500 pounds, engineers at Ingolstadt equipped S6 with special treatments in the similar manner 'Q' upgraded the 007 car.

To shave off speed at an equally fast rate, S6 is equipped with oversized 15.2-inch ventilated rotors up front and 13-inch ventilated rotors in the back. The transfer of energy during acceleration, braking and turning is optimized by installing sticky 265/35 R19 Z-rated wide rubbers

on the flared corners. The chassis features lightweight aluminum construction and the targeted use of sheet steel to create a balance between rigidity and weight saving, hence reducing the unsprung mass.

To provide precise handling and steering, the refined four-link front suspension and the self-tracking trapezoidal-link rear suspension are designed and constructed to provide an extremely sporty kinematic behavior with superior directional stability and steering precision. Furthermore, Audi drive select systems offer three settings: automatic, comfort and dynamic. This feature allows the driver to select the proper driving dynamic for different kinds of driving.

All of the above are required to optimize the use of volcanic power of the Lamborghini V10. It is slightly more detuned than the Lamborghini version but it provides a wider power band which is suitable for a daily driver. Asymmetric quattro system sends that power to all four wheels with 40/60 front/rear torque split distribution via a six-speed Tiptronic transmission. With all treatments above and then some, S6 has a commendable nimble and precise driving dynamic that exceeds even its lighter competitors.

## 3.0T V6 A6

The supercharged A6, on the other hand, I believe, is secretly designed so parents who do not want to give up their fun fast toys can still have a joyful grocery-getter family sedan. With 135 hp less power and 88 lbs-ft less torque than its brother, this A6, which is about 370 pound lighter, can still reach a well respected rate of acceleration. 0-60 mph is accomplished in 5.9 seconds; only less than a second slower than its big brother.

The athletic performance of this A6 is brought by the combination of Fuel Stratified Injection (FSI) and Roots-style supercharger. The supercharger is mounted between cylinder banks. Two water-to-air intercoolers are utilized to chill the air before it enters the supercharger. This supercharger is equipped with free-running blades which coast under low engine loads when supercharging is unnecessary.

FSI technology increases the torque and power, makes the engine 15% more

# CANNERY ROW

Photo: Andreas Dharmawan



# Weekend Drive: V10 S6 and Supercharged V6 A6

economical and reduces exhaust emission. The above gains are achieved by injecting fuel directly to the combustion chamber at pressure of between 30 and 110 bar. The significant cooling effect of this injection process improves cylinder charging and enables the engine to run at considerably higher compression ratio than the non-FSI engine.

At 2500 rpm, the potent technologies combination above produces the maximum torque of 310 lbs-ft. And, this flat torque band spans up to 5100 rpm. Despite the relatively close 0-60 mph acceleration number to its big brother's, this 3.0T A6 can do 26 mpg on highway.

In the aesthetic department, 2010 A6 features the integrated daylight driving LEDs and the LED taillights. The newly designed widened taillights of 2010 A6 make the car look smaller than it really is. Combined with its assertive stance, sweeping lines and single frame grill, this A6 radiates agility and prowess.

While S6 always begs to be unleashed every time it is taken for a drive, even when it is driven to a local grocery store. The supercharged A6, on the other hand, doesn't feel beastly. However, if you desire some excitement, the supercharged A6 will still give you just enough lasting smile. And, the checkout counter teenager at your local grocery store will be wondering why you are so high on life.

## CARMEL BY THE SEA

After the whole afternoon of fun driving, we arrived at the charming Carmel-by-the-Sea. Some of the cottages in this town

are straight out of a Hansel and Gretel story book. In addition to its ginger bread cottages, this city is famous for its white sand beach, art galleries, restaurants and dog-friendly hotels.

Doris Day's Cypress Inn is a must see historic hotel. Its *blanco* Spanish architecture building features a tranquil courtyard and a cozy living room with an oversized fireplace. The afternoon tea service is divine. A great variety of teas are complemented by a selection of homemade scones and tea cookies, sandwiches, jam and thickened cream.

After strolling along the main and side streets in downtown Carmel, we were ready to head back to San Francisco. We decided to take Highway 1 to Santa Cruz and then Highway 17 through the Santa Cruz mountain pass.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

After a short stop at a farmer's market, it was my turn again to drive the S6. Cruising steadily on Highway 1, I had a bittersweet feeling about S6. It was the same feeling I had a long time ago when I said goodbye to a friend. We knew at that time that we would not see each other again. We both felt happy for the chance of meeting each other and sad for the fact our journey together had ended.

In today's world, when our awareness on earth ecosystem's health is at all time high, the days of car manufacturers producing relatively high-volume production

5.2 V10 family cars, such as this S6, are numbered. Demand for this kind of car will drop significantly as people participate more in the global effort to reduce energy consumption and dependency on fossil fuel. And this makes S6 an endangered species.

No doubt the car companies will still produce them, but only in limited volume, and this makes them unaffordable to many of us. Instead, they will produce hybrid, electric, natural gas or even hydrogen cars that can match the performance of the current S6. However, this current V10 has many addictive attributes that smaller or alternative engines will not have: the unique sonorous sound, the distinct burble, the ample torque at low RPM, the fast action revving and a few more things that cannot be described in words but we feel them. Due to these addictive attributes, the V10 S6 will always be a distinct, memorable, very fast and agile family car in the history of the automobile. Collect one if your heart desires before it becomes extinct. [andreas@driving-vacation.com](mailto:andreas@driving-vacation.com).

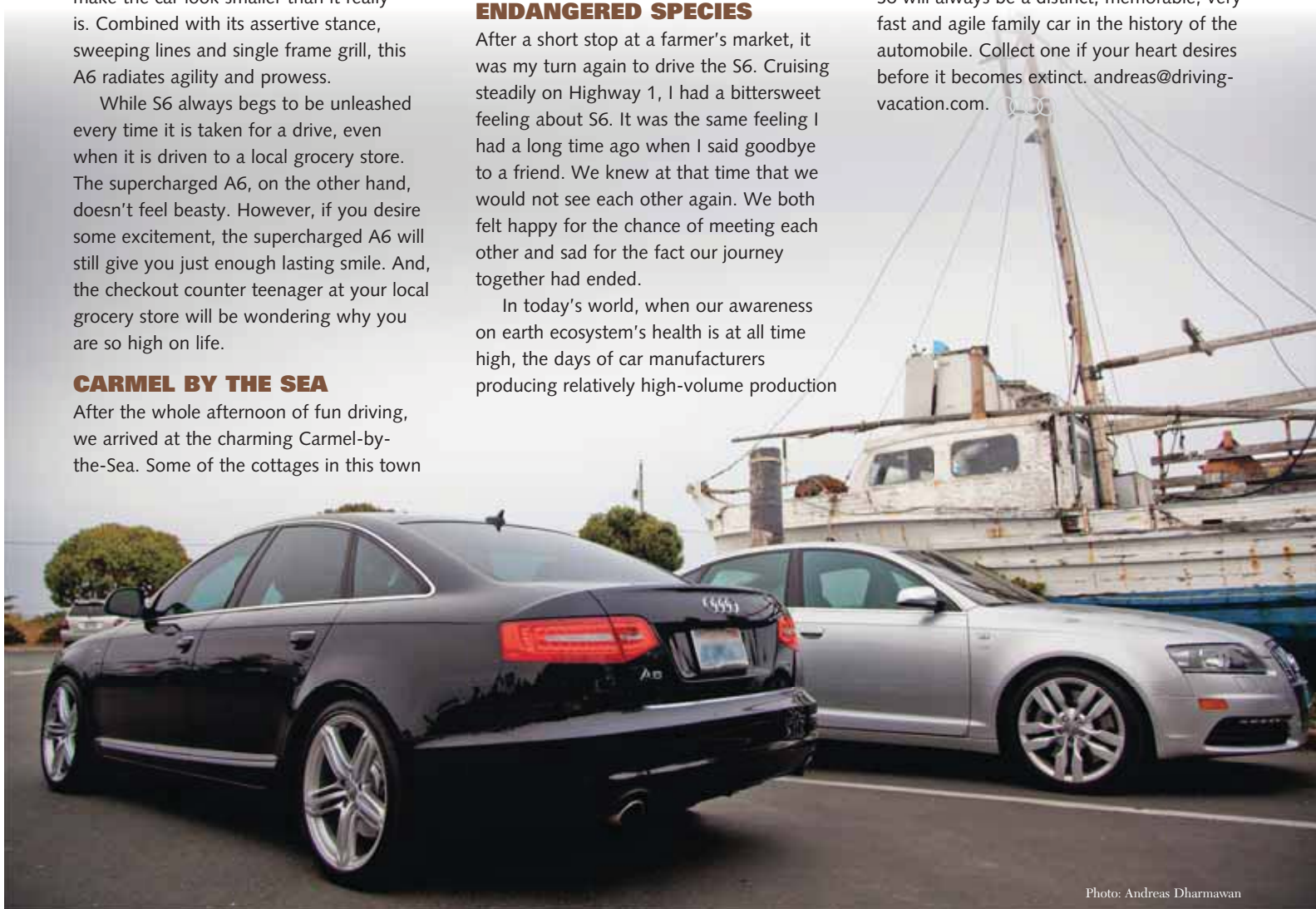


Photo: Andreas Dharmawan