

Style & Substance

The Best of Both Worlds in a Mercedes CLS 63



Designed by American automotive designer, Michael Fink, the Mercedes CLS made its debut in North American in January of 2005 and the impact was widely felt as the visual impression made by the vehicle was visceral and immediate. Couple that with the highly potent supercharged 5.5L engine offered by Mercedes' performance division, AMG in the form of the CLS55 and the hallmark of a legacy was born.

In 2007, Mercedes introduced a new 6.2L naturally aspirated motor in their new CLS63 which remained the powerplant of choice for the CLS owner until

The introduction of the 2012 Mercedes CLS63 and its 5.5L twin turbo motor making an impressive 518 engine horsepower and 518 torque directly from the showroom floor. Mated to a seven speed multiclutch transmission with four driving modes and an adaptive driver-adjustable suspension, the CLS63 is fast, responsive and as aggressive or as docile as the driver wants it to be.

When coupled with the stunning looks of the vehicle, its luxurious leather interior and numerous creature comforts, it's almost inconceivable that performance and styling improvements could be made to this platform with no sacrifices to either driveability and reliability while keeping the full factory warranty intact. But according to Renntech and Vossen wheels and this, their first collaborative effort, inconceivable became reality in this beautiful 2012 Designo Magno White Mercedes CLS63.



Equipped with the P01 package which includes a rear view camera, heated and ventilated front seats, LED lights and keyless go, the teams at Renntech and Vossen decided to go with a carefully selected suite of performance and aesthetic modifications to provide just the right amount of additional driving enjoyment.

Known throughout the performance tuning world for their expertise with the Mercedes Benz platform, Renntech decided to focus their initial efforts on the most beneficial part of the vehicle's system – the ECU.

Baseline dyno numbers confirmed the factory ratings with a very impressive 441 rear wheel horsepower and 454 rear wheel torque. After expertly manipulating the parameters of the factory tune including fuel and timing, torque management, fan speed, etc the CLS was once again strapped down with phenomenal results. RWHP increased to 558 and RWTQ to 608 – a staggering 117 hp and 154 torque gain! Assuming a relatively conservative eighteen percent driveline loss, this vehicle now makes in the area of 660 horsepower and 715 torque at the motor – a massive improvement from the claimed numbers of 518/518 respectively.

In over 20 years of tuning, Renntech has their formula down to a “T” and this vehicle is no exception. Stock manners abound until the go pedal is depressed and then the vehicle launches forward with the purposeful grace of a cheetah chasing its evening meal. Triple digit speeds are only a few seconds away, in a vehicle that never feels unbalanced or out of control – a rare commodity in a car with this much power at hand.

With the performance enhancements taken care of (for now!), the experts at Vossen wheels in Miami, Florida developed a carefully thought out plan for the wheels, exterior and suspension of this platform vehicle.

Initially a set of Vossen CV3 wheels was selected for the vehicle. A classic 5 spoke design, it takes that tried and true formula and turns it “concave” – with a matte graphite finish selected that's a perfect companion to the matte white of the vehicle. The front wheels are 20” x 9” wrapped in a 255/30/20 high performance tire, while the rears measure a massive 20” x 10.5” with a ultra wide 305/25/20 rear tire attempting to harness the massive power generated by this Teutonic terror.

Just before this issue went to press, a decision was made to change the wheel to a seven spoke concave in a polished finish to showcase the new product launch of this wheel series – but really it's a case of “six of one, half dozen of the other” as both wheels are the perfect enhancement to the smooth, flowing lines of the exterior.

The suspension was enhanced by Vossen with a full FW suspension kit featuring front coilovers and a lowering module for the factory rear air ride suspension.

The rock-solid AMG braking system featuring 6 piston front brake calipers and 4 piston rear calipers was retained with the only addition being the painting of the calipers themselves a very subtle shade of “Fahrenheit Orange”!

With the vehicle seeing almost daily use and the overall consensus being that it's nearly perfect in its current configuration, future modifications will be at a minimum but will include the addition of a new Renntech front spoiler and aftermarket exhaust to let the twin turbo V8 breathe and sound that much better.

Find yourself at a car show or drag strip in Florida or the surrounding states and don't be surprised to see this vehicle next to you. When the green light drops though, please don't say we didn't warn you as 660 horsepower of German sedan glides smoothly by you, the driver grinning happily as he enjoys the perfect blend of style and substance.

