

## DRIVER

Jewel property developer  
Baron Li and the GLE450

## DESPATCHES

Singapore gives up its  
hidden dining secrets

## LABEL

SunSoaked swimwear's  
summer collection

# MB

THE MERCEDES-BENZ  
GOLD COAST MAGAZINE

# GC



SUMMER 2016

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In everything that Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast does, we strive to honour the legacy of innovation and precision set by Karl Benz, the founder of Mercedes-Benz antecedent Benz & Cie who, in 1886, patented the Motorwagen, the world's first automobile.



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# WELCOME



**M** MBGC – the Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast magazine steers into its third year with two fantastic new editorial sections tailored just for you, as well as our regular features you’ve come to know.

Our newest is social scene commentary called THE PAGES, MBGC’s new guide to Gold Coast socialite (Coastalite) living, delivered with an affectionate wink and a knowing smile.

For the launch we’ve gone all out with a shopping spree guide to beat them all – a quick spend of \$10,000 at a number of Pacific Fair’s new luxury boutiques.

And with brands like Tiffany and Co., Fendi, Gucci and Christian Louboutin, who wouldn’t be able to?

Our other new MBGC section is dubbed FLEET, and it’s the place where we go into detail on the current Mercedes-Benz range.

To launch FLEET we’ve recruited Peter Hackett, Mercedes-Benz Chief Driving Instructor, as guest writer and asked for his take on the new

E Class – the most technologically advanced car on the planet.

Of course it wouldn’t be MBGC if it didn’t feature some exclusive stories on some of the Gold Coast’s most interesting and influential people.

For DRIVER, we secured the first in-depth interview with developer Baron Li, whose father is the mastermind of the \$1 billion Jewel project in Surfers Paradise.

Baron, a relatively new Gold Coaster, has recently stepped out from this father’s shadow with development projects of his own and the interview provides a fascinating take on the city through his fresh eyes.

We also review this summer’s swimwear sensation SunSoaked, discover Singapore’s new wave of high (and low) cuisine in DESPATCHES, and our very own brand ambassador Shelley Craft walks us through a stunning Sanctuary Cove mansion styled by interior designer Vanessa Wood.

And that’s not to mention our social photos from our gala Melbourne Cup luncheon at The Showroom at the Gold Coast Turf Club.

It was great to catch up so many of our friends in one place and I personally cannot wait to see you all again at Melbourne Cup next year.

That will be November 2017, so of course I’ll see you all before that!

Please enjoy this anniversary edition of MBGC, share it with your friends, and if you’d like to view the range of Mercedes-Benz autos, please call into our showroom in Robina or boutique at Sanctuary Cove.

**Robin Mainali**

*Dealer Principal*

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Mid-century marketing for the iconic 230SL

*family*  
**JEWEL**

Baron Li, the son of Jewel magnate Riyu Li,  
steps from his father's considerable shadow

WRITER Sam Cleveland

PHOTOGRAPHY Lincoln Williams



**B**aron Li was working on import and export of beef and poultry at a Shanghai trading company when his father called suggesting he hand in his notice.

The senior Li's first development project in Australia was picking up speed and he wanted his son to relocate to the Gold Coast and join the team. Li junior politely admits to 'concern and confusion' over the conversation.

The Sydney-educated Li had holidayed on the Gold Coast a decade before – doing the rounds of the theme parks and even bungee jumping in Surfers Paradise.

"I asked him 'what's there on the Gold Coast?', I was confused – if we're doing business in Australia, why not in Sydney?" says the now 28-year-old.

But this was no ordinary project – the \$1 billion Jewel is Australia's largest mixed-use beachfront development and the first absolute beachfront development on the Gold Coast in more than 30 years.

And Li's father is no ordinary dad – Riyu Li is among China's richest men and the founder of Ridong Group, who've partnered with China's titanic Wanda Group to deliver Jewel.

So Li said yes, took up a directorship with the newly formed Wanda Ridong Group and returned to the Gold Coast to find an emerging city with 'a lot more going on than just the theme park'.

"I trusted my father's vision – I don't want to admit this, but he has been right most of the time," laughs Li.

**F**ast forward to 2016: Jewel is coming out of the ground and Baron and his brother Tony, 32, are making moves in the property sector under their own banner.

"After working on Jewel and settling in here, we began to see the opportunities on the Gold Coast," he says.

"This is a very interesting city, it's got more than 50km of beachfront, mountain views and an amazing waterways system.

"We've got a home in Tallebudgera; it's considered the countryside – but after a 15-minute drive you come to a beachfront city with highrise coastline."

Last year the brothers – who remain great friends – formed Macroland and began scoping their debut project.

A long search drew them to a site on the eastern edge of Chevron Island, a strategic block within striking distance of the beach and key infrastructure.

"Chevron Island came to us because of its unique characteristics – it's the link between Surfers Paradise and Bundall, and the Gold Coast Highway, Bermuda Street and Ferry Road – the main roads of the city," says Li.

Their plans gelled into a luxury residential tower dubbed One, approved this year by council and ready to go.

The Lis engaged development managers CRA Group to oversee a national design competition and briefed winning Sydney firm Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp to maximise the view and complement the nearby Gold Coast Cultural Precinct.

The result is Australia's first highrise to use a daring timber veneer finish façade exterior, and a novel segmented profile that provides 270 degree views from each corner apartment.

Their father, says Li, has been hands-off from Macroland.

"He has a degree of trust in us," says Li. "He thinks we're very sensible and has given us a degree of freedom."

Li senior first saw detail on the Chevron Island project once design was completed, with the brothers hovering nearby as he studied their drawings.

"Of course we would like to impress him, he looked at our work but didn't say much... but he did nod his head," laughs Li.

**F**or DRIVER, Li is behind the wheel of the GLE450 SUV with an AMG package.

"Mercedes-Benz really are the most comfortable drive," he says as we pick up what speed we can en route to Ephraim Island (where Ridong made a bulk purchase in 2009).

"Dad is always in the new S-Class, as soon as the new one comes out, and I can see why now.

“That became something I wanted to do as well: develop high-quality projects that stand for my entire lifetime, that I can go past every time and be proud of”



Wanda Ridong's \$1 billion absolute beachfront Jewel, due for completion in 2019. DBI Design in Surfers Paradise collaborated with US-based Oppenheim Architecture+Design principal Chad Oppenheim on the winning submission.



"And Tony drives an ML63 AMG; that exhaust sound is perfect, it's aggressive, but even when you put your foot all the way down there's a feeling like there's more power to give."

Li says the GLE450 is a car that fits everyone, with an elegant interior and exterior design, and a clever balance of comfort and fun.

"It's so smooth for a daily drive and when you want to have some fun, it won't let you down," he says.

Li was born in Zhuhai, a coastal Chinese city close to Macau, and attended a Chinese boarding school, where he made 'pure friends' he's still close to today.

On weekends he'd return home and often ended up trailing his father to the office, absorbing guidance from the sidelines as the senior Li worked on his building projects.

"Because my father was so busy, I'd go with him to work and when I'm there – it's boring – so I start looking at floorplans and designs and watch him conduct business," he says.

His mother, Feng Liu Wu, is a strong businesswoman in her own right but stepped away from day-to-day Ridong operations when the family relocated to Sydney in 2000.

Older brother Tony had learned rudimentary English in China but Baron entered Australian school with not much more than 'yes', 'no' and 'hello'.

He persevered, sometimes taking two hours to read a single page of English as he searched for every word in his small electronic dictionary.

"English to me meant a brand-new way of thinking, not only the vocabulary to learn but the grammar is so different."

Li admits to neglecting his studies but bounced back with an Economics degree from Macquarie University and an in-progress MBA from Bond University.

At school he also picked up a passion for basketball and still gets out for a weekly pick-up game with co-workers.

"On the court there is no manager or boss, just a team, playing like we were in high school," he says.

Li's workday is split between Jewel and Macroland projects – meeting with the Jewel sales team, then switching gears to work on designs for the forthcoming Northcliffe Terrace project and shepherding One towards construction.

Away from work he's developed a taste for action sports (his profile picture on the Chinese social media platform WeChat shows him carving up a New Zealand mountain on his snowboard).

"Whatever gets my heart beating fast," he laughs.

He's been down to Byron Bay for skydiving trips and wants to try for his license once his schedule eases up, and is looking forward to getting back out on his jetski now summer's back.

What's notably missing from Li's character is any shade of the Little Emperor Syndrome – an entitlement and selfishness commentators say has been bred into a generation of newly rich Chinese children raised under a one-child policy.

Baron and Tony would be prime candidates – they drive sports cars, share a luxury home and succeed in an ego-drenched industry – but have instead built a local reputation as savvy operators with an easy manner.



“There's a sentiment that the market might fall or slow after 2018, but there's too much foreign investment coming and it's becoming a more popular destination internationally for any significant slow down”

“I think firstly my mother influenced us a lot, she's a very nice humble woman,” says Baron, “and my father is a very easy man to get along with.”

**A**t Macroland, the Li brothers' focus is on high-quality legacy projects with global commercial appeal, an outlook Li traces back to a walk on the Zhuhai beach with his father to look at his just-completed beachfront tower.

“He stared back at his project and when I looked through his eyes, I felt his pride,” he says.

“That became something I wanted to do as well: develop high-quality projects that stand for my entire lifetime, that I can go past every time and be proud of.”

Their approach, says Li, also makes sound commercial sense – upscale developments sited and delivered with care and attention attract domestic and international buyers.

“Our work is for buyers looking for product that they like, they want and that they get excited about,” he says.

“High-net-worth individuals, from overseas in particular, if they're looking on the Gold Coast they are definitely looking at lifestyle over pure investment and rental income.”

He predicts the city will continue to flourish post-Commonwealth Games, and says a drift towards Coolangatta – “There's a lot of opportunity there, and the expansion of the airport will definitely help” – was likely.

“There's a sentiment that the market might fall or slow after 2018, but there's too much foreign investment coming and it's becoming a more popular destination internationally for any significant slowdown,” he says.

**L**ooking large over Li's enterprises is the example set by his self-made father, who grew up poor in the countryside and overcame the privations of China's Great Leap Forwards and Cultural Revolution.

“My father has been my idol since I was young,” says Li. “He grew up in a difficult time in China's history and has always been a very generous man, even when he was poor.”

“He didn't want to settle for a normal life and started doing all sorts of business – he sold vegetables in the market, then opened a restaurant, then mechanical repairs, then moved into property development.”

In 2000, Li senior began exploring opportunities in Australia. He first visited the Gold Coast for a vacation, then returned to pick out a permanent holiday home.

On recognising the city's nascent potential, he later fought hard to win an extremely competitive bid on the 130m-beach frontage Jewel site in Surfers Paradise.

“He knew an opportunity like that site would never be repeated for 30 years, maybe longer,” says Li. “He knew it was the best site on the Gold Coast – maybe the best site in Australia – and he was determined to purchase it.”

Li says the primary lesson from his father's story is the generosity of spirit he showed others; in his initial ventures in rural China he was funded by friends he'd previously lend assistance to.

“He is a very generous man and likes to help others whenever he can – physical help or financial help, he did his best to help his friends, and when he then started his businesses, many friends supported him,” says Li.

“This is a very important lesson – treating your friends well and getting the rewards back later.”

To find out more about Jewel Residences visit [www.jewelgc.com](http://www.jewelgc.com) or visit the display suite at 3113 Surfers Paradise Boulevard, Surfers Paradise or the onsite experience centre at 36-44 Old Burleigh Road, Surfers Paradise



Welcome to  
**THE PAGES**

Welcome to MBGC magazine's in-the-know guide to Gold Coast socialising – or 'Coastalising' if you like. In **THE PAGES**, you'll read about thing things Coastalites enjoy reading about – where to go, who to see and how to be seen.

How to spend  
**\$10,000 AT**  
**PACIFIC FAIR**

Coastalite knows Pacific Fair has become *the* local hub for luxury brands.

Shopping online might be fine for Teslas, but it feels somehow disrespectful to detach oneself from the boutique experience when it comes to Louis Vuitton or Tiffany & Co.

And with so many lux options at the one Broadbeach address, you can now pick up all your essentials in one trip!

Here's how THE PAGES politely recommends racking up a five-figure excursion.

**Top 5 topics of discussion  
 for Coastalites**

1. the new Au pair
2. renovations at the holiday house
3. who wore what at The Showroom for Melbourne Cup! (sub-topic: how right / wrong Fashions of the Field judges got it)
4. the kids' achievements (Bond University moot court wins / getting on the books at SASS Management)
5. referrals for dermal fillers





### 1 | TIFFANY & CO.

*Paloma Picasso Olive Leaf Cuff (medium)* | \$1,950

Light and cursive, this Paloma Picasso-designed cuff is feeling a bit must-have for summer – what better way to celebrate Tiffany & Co.'s arrival on the Gold Coast?

### 2 | CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

*Decollete 554* | \$945

100mm stilettos, iconic Louboutin profile, gorgeously understated ballerina patent uppers and gracefully pointed toe. Gimme gimme!

### 3 | LOUIS VUITTON

*Lockme II BB* | \$2,840

The new-look Lockme's profile is youthful and fresh, with the silver LV twist radiating just enough brand recognition to keep a Coastalite's shopping list where it belongs – on public display!

### 4 | GUCCI

*GG Marmont leather wallet* \$605 | *GG Leather belt with double-G buckle* | \$700

Matchy matchy for him with a monogrammed breast pocket wallet-and-belt combo bearing 'GG' in lustrous brass on leather.

### 5 | HERMÈS

*Cashmere and silk encadré shawl* | \$955

92 square centimetres of understated indulgence. Why scarf when you can shawl?

### 6 | CHANEL FRAGRANCE AND BEAUTY

*Rogue Allure Inks* | 8 x \$52 = \$416

Designed exclusively for Chanel by their new Global Creative Director for Makeup and Colour Lucia Pica, these lip inks mix dense, rich pigment with a weightless formulation. You'll notice the difference.

And as we're only spending MBGC play money, let's take all eight colours in the line.

### 7 | FENDI

*Karlito Slip-Ons* | \$1,670

Karl Lagerfeld designing for Fendi gives us two brand names for the price of one (as if price was a concern!), and a pair of playfully studded slip-ons.

No idea where we'll wear them, but we know they're coming home with us. (available from Sneakerboy)

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**TOTAL \$10,081**

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# EXIT STRATEGY

*Key tax considerations when selling a business*

WRITER Melanie Wear

We all know selling or planning to sell a business brings with it many considerations, and that the likely tax outcomes are key among those factors.

Whether or not tax is payable (and how much tax) on the sale of a business can make a huge difference to the amount of cash that business owners walk away with.

Choices can, however, be made that reduce or eliminate the final tax bill, if the planning starts early enough.

Read on for MWM Advisory's summary of the landscape and list of worthwhile tax-related considerations around the sale of a business.

---

## SELLING A BUSINESS OR THE UNDERLYING OWNERSHIP OF A COMPANY?

Because companies are not eligible for the 50 per cent capital gains tax (CGT) discount, it is better from a taxation perspective for individual owners to sell their shares in a company that is carrying on a business, than for the company to sell its business and then distribute the proceeds.

The flip side to this however is that the company continues to exist and as a result, the new owners may want specific amounts of protection against any of the company's historical trading liabilities.

It is important to note this can differ dependant upon whether or not the trading business may instead be a sole trader or fixed/discretionary/family trust where the 50 per cent CGT discount can apply.

### SMALL BUSINESS CGT CONCESSIONS

Small business CGT concessions are extremely valuable for businesses that meet the required conditions, and can allow the CGT on a business sale to be eliminated or at least substantially reduced.

The concessions can be used when a business has either 'aggregated annual turnover' or less than \$2 million (the small business entity (SBE) test) or total net assets of less than \$6 million (the net asset value (NAV) test), subject to certain grouping rules involving related entities and individuals.

The NAV test includes assets of controlling individuals, but specifically excludes the family home, superannuation balances and personal use assets, such as boats, cars and holiday homes.

Provided one of the above tests are satisfied (SBE turnover or the NAV test) the four concessions are generally dealt with in this order:

#### **1. The 15-year exemption:**

This is the holy grail of exemptions and ensures if your business has been continuously owned for 15 years and you are over 55 and retiring, then you will not have an assessable capital gain when the business is sold.

#### **2. The 50 per cent active asset reduction:**

If you have owned your business for greater than 12 months and you satisfy the SBE turnover test above or the NAV test above, the capital gain on sale will be reduced by a further 50 per cent.

#### **3. The retirement exemption:**

The retirement concession can be used by those aged under 55, but the difference is that the amount of the concession must be paid into a super fund, and many people are not prepared to do that as they need access to the entire sale proceeds. This amount currently has a lifetime cap of \$500,000.

#### **4. The small business rollover:**

The small business rollover allows you to defer all or part of a capital gain for two years, or longer if you acquire a replacement asset (business) or incur expenditure making capital improvements to an existing asset (business).

### OTHER TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Another key point is to look at the level of retained profits and associated franking credits in the operating company.

It is common where a share sale agreement exists to require any profits to be paid out as dividends to the existing shareholders prior to settlement.

So it is worthwhile planning to make dividend payments over a number of years rather than being stuck paying large dividends just before the sale, most of which may attract the top marginal tax rate. Even after franking credits, there could be a 'top-up tax' of up to 23 per cent.

A related issue that follows on from this is the ownership structure of the operating business and how any sale proceeds are to be distributed. This is where it is important to have the correct underlying ownership structure of your business as and when it is established.

For example, if several entities own shares, then any dividends will be split among all the shareholders, and it could be more likely that at least some of the payments will be taxed at lower marginal rates.

In our experience, the cleanest and most effective approach is where all the shares are owned by a family discretionary trust or, if more than one family is involved, then multiple family trusts.

This provides maximum flexibility, allowing dividends to be paid up to the family trust(s) and distributed among various family members each year as appropriate, and makes satisfying the small business CGT concessions simpler.

For more information about tax considerations around the sale of a business, family trusts and structuring your enterprise for maximum benefit, visit [mwmadvisory.com.au](http://mwmadvisory.com.au) or call 5596 9070.



# SOOTHING SANCTUARY

PHOTOGRAPHY Tim Caraco

Interior designer Vanessa Wood walks Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast brand ambassador Shelley Craft through a stunning Sanctuary Cove mansion.

Leading Gold Coast designer Vanessa Wood was 'delighted and flattered' when favoured clients called to recruit her for their fourth, and most ambitious, collaboration – a sprawling single-storey build at Sanctuary Cove.

Vanessa was engaged in the early stages of the build (as the block work was taking shape) to assist with the overall layout, and then oversaw all internal and external finishes throughout the project.

Her brief was to create a relaxed yet elegant home in which to entertain friends and accommodate their ever-growing family and grandchildren.

"The home itself is certainly a contemporary masterpiece, however it was also imperative that the final result reflected the clients' classical approach and traditional aesthetic," says Vanessa.

"We relished reupholstering and painting many favoured pieces," she says, "giving them a new twist and, in doing so, creating a soothing colour palette throughout."

To see more of Vanessa Wood's work visit [vanessawood.com.au](http://vanessawood.com.au)









## RIVERFRONT LIVING AREA

It was the goal to make this large, open-plan space appear seamless and gentle on the eye, flowing effortlessly between living, dining, casual seating, kitchen and al fresco areas.

The extraordinary river views that span the huge width of the property were intentionally considered to be viewed as one with the interior. The colours throughout the home were chosen to reflect and enhance the peaceful river aspect.



## AL FRESCO

The enormous undercover al fresco entertaining area features a built-in barbecue, automated fly screens and tiles chosen to imitate sun-kissed decking. It's a great spot, with a lawn putting green on the tier below, a real reminder that the area is something special.

Not many homes can boast their very own putting green, but this seemed a reasonable addition for a couple who travel the world enjoying golf, and of course it offers a great talking point and keeps the grandchildren entertained!





## KITCHEN

The kitchen is one of my favourite areas in the house, from the fluted glass cabinets that accent the pendant lighting to the gorgeous hardware and immense slab of stone on the island, this has proved to be a wonderful area for gatherings of guests and family.

## MASTER BEDROOM

The image here only depicts half the room – so understandably the custom bed needed to be suitably impressive and, most importantly, in scale with this expansive space! The commissioned artwork adds a serene and restful touch, incorporating the colours and tone of the other furnishings.





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# CATALOGUE

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2013 Mercedes-Benz S 500

\$179,900.00 Drive Away



Km 42,821. Four-door and five-seat sedan in Obsidian Black with black leather interior.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE

- Panoramic glass sunroof
- 19 inch alloy wheels
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- Two-year certified pre-owned warranty

Many more features to list.



2014 Mercedes-Benz E 63 AMG

\$167,900.00 Drive Away



Km 13,151. Four-door and five-seat sedan in Obsidian Black with black leather interior.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE

- E430kw and 800nm 5.5L Bi-Turbo V8
- Anthracite 19 inch AMG multi-spoke alloy wheels
- Harman/Kardon surround sound system
- Silver seatbelts

- Comand navigation with voice activation
- Two-year certified pre-owned warranty

Many more features to list.



2013 Mercedes-Benz GL 63

**\$139,900.00** Drive Away



Km 39,957. Five-door and five-seat wagon in Diamond White with Black Nappa leather interior.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE

- 21 inch Silver AMG Alloy wheels
- Electric 3rd row of seats
- 5.5L Twin-Turbo V8 engine
- Comand Navigation with Voice Activation
- 2 Years Certified Pre-Owned Warranty

- 116-Point Inspection by our factory trained technicians
- Comand navigation with voice activation
- Two-year certified pre-owned warranty

Many more features to list.



# GOOSEBUMPS NEVER LIE

Goose bumps always tell the truth. And that's the truth we're working for. Beyond all measurements, data, tests, and calculations, it is goose bumps that tell us when we've reached our goal. When the sound of the engine has turned into something you not only hear but feel. When acceleration stops being a physical quantity and turns into a key stimulus for the release of fireworks in your brain. When grip is not grip anymore but a confession of faith in the road. Then, an AMG really is an AMG. And even then, it is time to keep working. Because nothing is more AMG than to never stand still.

AMG. DRIVEN BY THE INNER FORCE.





2012 Mercedes-Benz ML 63 AMG

\$99,900.00 Drive Away

\$50,000 - \$100,000



Km 47,357. Five-door and five-seat wagon in Cavansite Blue with black leather interior.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE

- Performance package
- Panoramic glass sunroof
- 21 inch machined AMG alloy wheels
- Electric memory front seats with heating
- Rear entertainment system with headphones and remotes
- Comand navigation with voice activation
- Heated rear seats
- Two-year certified pre-owned warranty

Many more features to list.



## 2014 Mercedes-Benz CLA 45 AMG

**\$78,900.00** Drive Away



Km 18,088. Four-door and five-seat coupe in Mountain Grey with red cut leather interior.

### FEATURES INCLUDE

- 19 inch matte black AMG alloy wheels
- Carbon fibre dashboard trim
- Harman/Kardon surround sound system
- Panoramic sunroof
- Comand navigation with voice activation
- Carbon fibre lip spoiler
- Two-year pre-owned warranty

Many more features to list.



2015 Mercedes-Benz A 45 AMG

\$69,900.00 Drive Away



Km 10,281. Five-door and five-seat hatchback Mountain Grey with red cut leather interior.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE

- Panoramic glass sunroof
- 19 inch silver alloy wheels
- Electric, memory front seats with heating
- Intelligent headlights

- Comand navigation with voice activation
- Two-year pre-owned warranty

Many more features to list.

\$50,000 - \$100,000



2014 Mercedes-Benz A 45 AMG

\$68,900.00 Drive Away



Km 24,713. Five-door and five-seat hatchback in Cirrus White with red cut leather interior.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE

- Panoramic glass sunroof
- 19 inch matte black alloy wheels
- Electric memory front seats with heating
- Aero package – rear wing and front canards

- Comand navigation with voice activation
- Two-year certified pre-owned warranty

Many more features to list.



2014 Mercedes-Benz E 250

\$67,900.00 Drive Away

\$50,000 - \$100,000



Km 32,468. Four-door and five-seat sedan in Iridium Silver with black leather interior.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE

- 19 inch AMG multi-spoke alloy wheels
- Vision package including panoramic sunroof
- 360 degree camera
- Harman/Kardon sound system
- One-year certified pre-owned warranty

Many more features to list.

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---

### C 200 Estate

- 18-inch 5 twin-spoke alloy wheels
  - Electric front seats
  - ARTICO upholstery
  - Garmin® MAP PILOT navigation
  - LED high performance headlamps
  - EASY-PACK automatic tailgate
- 



Mercedes-Benz



2014 Mercedes-Benz E 250

\$67,900.00 Drive Away



Km 32,468. Four-door and five-seat sedan in Iridium Silver with black leather interior.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE

- 19 inch AMG multi-spoke alloy wheels
- Vision package including panoramic sunroof
- 360 degree camera
- Harman/Kardon sound system
- One-year certified pre-owned warranty

Many more features to list.

\$25,000 - \$50,000



2011 Mercedes-Benz C 250

**\$37,900.00** Drive Away



Km 63,762. Four-door and five-seat sedan in Obsidian Black with black leather interior.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE

- Electric tilting and sliding sunroof
- Bi-Xenon headlights
- Harman/Kardon sound system
- 17 inch alloy wheels
- Two-year certified pre-owned warranty

Many more features to list.



2013 Mercedes-Benz Vito 639

\$27,900.00 Drive Away



Km 84, 058. Five-door and five-seat van in Arctic White with black cloth interior.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE

- Rear removable three-seat bench
- Touch screen navigation
- Reverse camera
- Rear rubber mat
- Windows in the dual sliding doors

Many more features to list.

\$25,000 - \$50,000

# The fast and the curious.

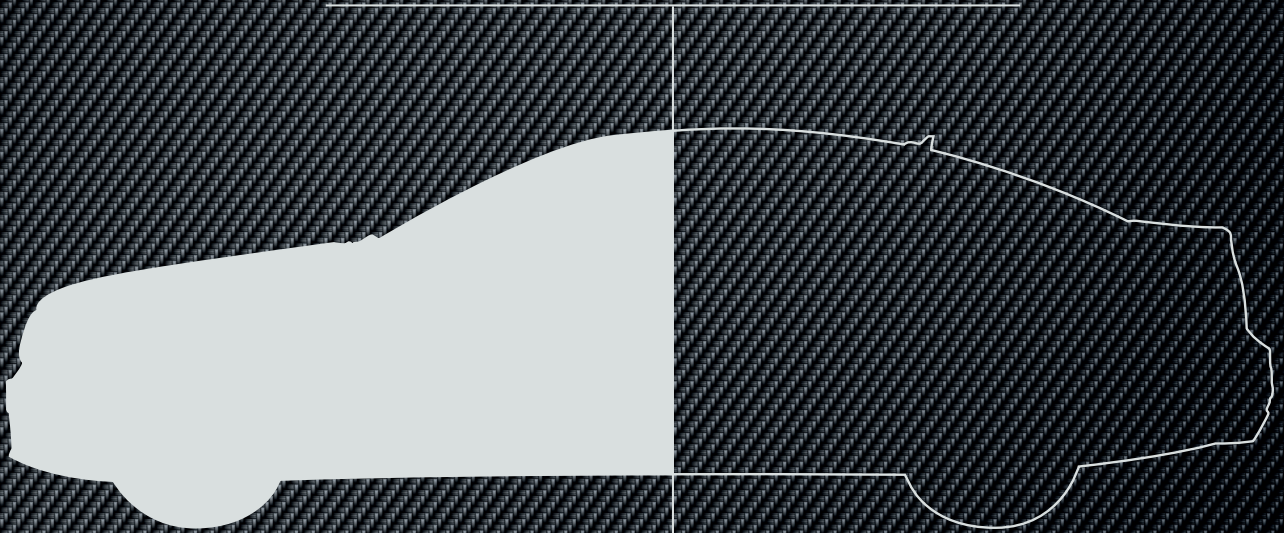
The all new GLA 45 AMG.

Every moment in the all new GLA 45 AMG is exhilarating. This powerful compact SUV continues AMG's rich history of automotive excellence. AMG Performance 4MATIC all-wheel drive flawlessly harnesses the force of the world's most powerful four-cylinder engine produced in series. And boldly exploits all 265 kW (360 hp) to conquer the road.

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<sup>†</sup>Guaranteed Future Value (GFV) is subject to vehicle return conditions and kilometre restrictions. Agility Finance is restricted to approved customers of Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Australia Pty Ltd ABN 73 074 134 517, Australian credit licence 247271 and is subject to standard credit assessment and lending criteria. Please contact an authorised Mercedes-Benz dealer for further details and full terms and conditions (including vehicle eligibility).

# Agility

Mercedes-Benz Financial



Mercedes-Benz

# SINGAPORE SATISFACTION

MBGC goes beneath the surface of Singapore's  
fertile dining scene

WRITER Cynthia Dammerer

PHOTOGRAPHY Open Farm Community, Salted and Hung, Artichoke





THIS PAGE: Delights from Salted and Hung's innovative menu

OPPOSITE PAGE: The Australian-owned Salted and Hung's interior

I always left Singapore unfulfilled. Time and time again, I flew out of the world's best airport feeling that I was missing out.

It was nothing to do with the friendly people of all races, creeds and shades of humanity who cram the little red dot.

It was not because Singapore had not shown me total respect and a cocooning feeling of safety on the streets at all hours – and efficiency everywhere, way beyond my wildest expectations.

I enjoyed spotless, cheap taxis and a precisely run MRT, and took in extraordinary architecture – new and old.

I couldn't say I was disappointed with the food; I had dined at expensive five-star hotels and munched my way through bowls

of spicy hawker food at the renovated Lau Pa Sat Hawker Centre and on Chinatown's Smith Street.

But I wanted to poke deeper, to eat where visitors don't go, to find those hidden foodie gems where the locals and expats eat, to escape the tourist trail.

Last visit, I recruited an expat as a guide, got my wish and finally flew out of Singapore satisfied.

**W**e went first for lunch at Open Farm Community, a sprawling garden-style restaurant on Dempsey's Minden Road. Here Chef Ryan's vision of merging fresh produce, tropical nature and local recipes adapted to seasonal food offerings – and pairing them with tasty cocktails – is truly soul nurturing.

Sit on the timber deck amongst the trees, play lawn bowls, or stay inside in air-conditioned comfort. And a nice bonus for Australians – very tasty wines, including Rosé, on tap at a reasonable price.

For dinner one night, we skirted the historic walls of Raffles hotel as it prepares to shut for major refurbishment in 2017 to Purvis Street and took our seat at the new Australian-owned Salted and Hung.

If meat can be cured, hung, salted or smoked from a pig, cow or fish, it will be on the menu of small dishes, each designed to share with friends (and avoid food envy!).

Chef Drew, originally from Brisbane, told us Singaporeans loved to try new foods and had



THIS PAGE: Bugis's in-vogue Artichoke

no qualms about eating parts of an animal some Australians find offensive.

With sublime food flavours, a whimsical craft beer and cider menu and amusing wall murals, Salted and Hung is a true hidden gem.

**N**ext day we trawled the touristy streets in the Arab Quarter, finding Moroccan lamps and hand-potted sangria jugs at Derwish Handicrafts in Bussorah Street.

I even invented a signature scent at Jamal Kazura Aromatics, and was later hungry to search out another secret eatery.

What we found has since become a regular haunt. Artichoke is al fresco 'gold', in Middle Road Bugis. Tucked away behind an old church and a hipster art centre, it is worth the fossick.

Their effusive host Ronny welcomes you like a long-lost relative, and explains the culinary thrust of the 'deviant Middle Eastern enterprise' – which according to Chef Bjorn features a menu full of scrappy mishaps!

The results, however, are hardly scrappy. Expect difficulty choosing dishes to share, but our picks include the famous Lambgasm,

forgotten grain salad and the smoked chicken with pickles and toum.

At meal's end, along with your surprisingly fair bill, you'll get a brown paper bag filled with gummy bears, just to make you smile.

I recommend buying a copy of their book, which is full of funny anecdotes and observations (such as the success of the C.R.A.P. sandwich), uplifting ideas and quirky recipes (one even encouraging you to add pork crackling to your maple syrup glaze on donuts). Ask Ronny nicely and chef might even sign it for you.



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# CLASS OF ITS OWN

In this MBGC exclusive, the Chief Instructor for Mercedes-Benz Australia Pacific puts the next-generation E-Class through its paces



**Peter Hackett**

*Chief Instructor for Mercedes-Benz Australia Pacific*

Peter Hackett, Chief Instructor for Mercedes-Benz Australia Pacific, is an expert in the theory and practice of driving.

He co-ordinates the amazing Mercedes-Benz Driving Events program, a day job that exposes him to the intimacies of Mercedes-Benz driving technology and technique.

And his professional racing record – he’s currently driving an AMG GT3 for Eggleston Motorsports in the Australian GT Championship – proves his practical chops beyond doubt.

He’s the first driver in history to win an Australian Formula 4000 and Formula 3 championship, and also bears the distinction of winning 19 races from 21 starts to simultaneously lead the Australian F4000 and GT Championships.

In this MBGC exclusive, Hackett talks through the fifth-generation E-Class, the most technologically advanced car on earth.



To sum the new E-Class up you really just have to go with the tagline – ‘a masterpiece of intelligence’.

The car’s Intelligent Drive Driver Assistance package offers semi-automated driving, autonomous braking against hazards and responsive Driver Assist that picks up a driver’s intent and helps them through the maneuver.

It’s the most technologically advanced car on the planet and uses more lines of computer code than an airbus A380, and more computer

processing power than NASA’s Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs put together.

The E-Class is essentially the last of its kind before highly automated vehicles – these ‘driverless cars’ people talk about – become available.

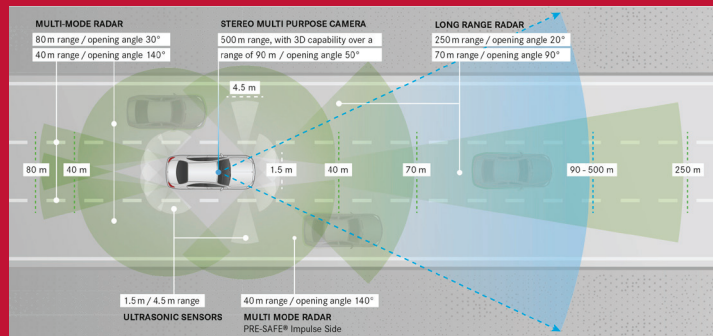
The next step is into the unknown, and it’s where the automotive industry is heading. The E-Class is by far the closest car to that next level, in fact there isn’t a next step.

## DRIVER ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

The E-Class is the industry leader in external sensors – no other car has the ability to see around itself as extensively.

The levels of information received from the radars and sensors and 3D cameras gives the car an unparalleled ability to make decisions and keep drivers safe on the roads.

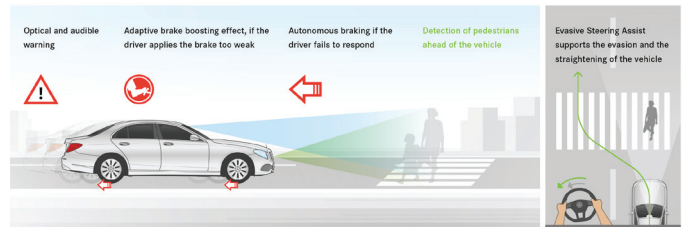
Without the sensor systems, you couldn't have the driver assist technology operating throughout the car – those systems are based on data about the road and the car's surrounding.



### Evasive Steering

If the radar confirms an obstacle, perhaps a pedestrian or parked car, it will assess the surrounding environment. If by beginning to steer, the driver indicates they would like to avoid what the car knows is an object, the E-Class will provide additional steering input to avoid it.

The car interprets what the driver is trying to do and assists them to complete the task.



Even if the driver is not performing the maneuver perfectly themselves, the E-Class intuitively what the driver is trying to achieve and helps them achieve that goal.

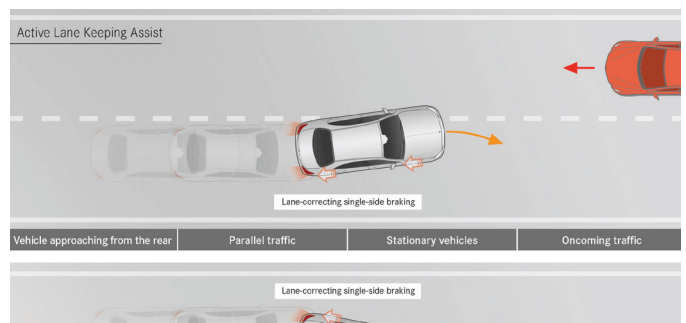
But what's key is that the steering assist only activates when the E-Class knows there's a space for us to move into safely.

### Active Lane Keeping Assist

The cameras spot when you get too close to the left or right of the lane – maybe from driver fatigue or distraction – and in response the steering wheel vibrates to alert you.

If you ignore the alert and keep drifting, the E-Class brakes the wheels on one side of the car only to countersteer you to the centre of your lane.

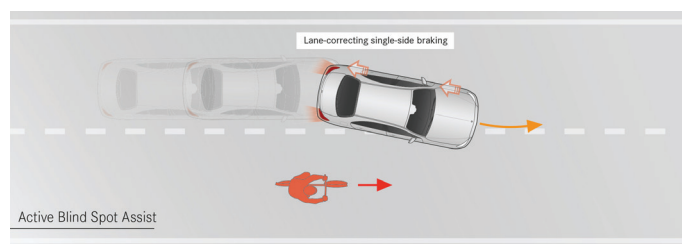
Braking the wheels down one side produces a subtle response. If the E-Class turned its front wheels it would turn its steering wheel too and that could panic the driver.



### Active Blind Spot Assist

Blind Spot Assist is very similar to Lane Keeping Assist. Using the radars in the back of the car, the E-Class can determine if someone's travelling in your blindspot. If a car's detected there, you get a hazard indicator on the side mirror, where you'd be looking to change lanes in that direction.

If you try to change lanes, the warning lamp flashes and if you ignore that warning the car single-side brakes to steer you away from the impact.

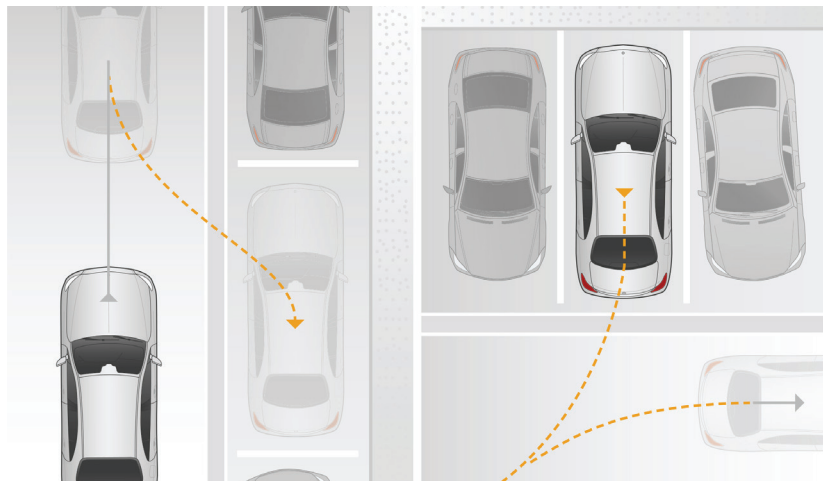
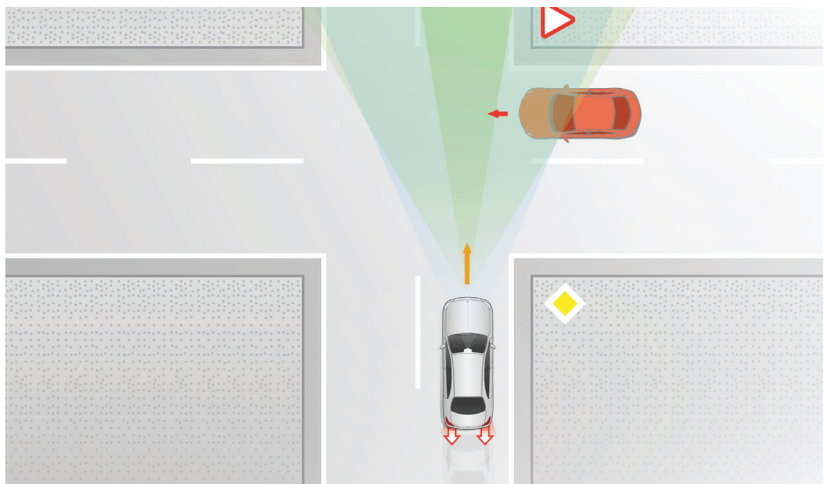
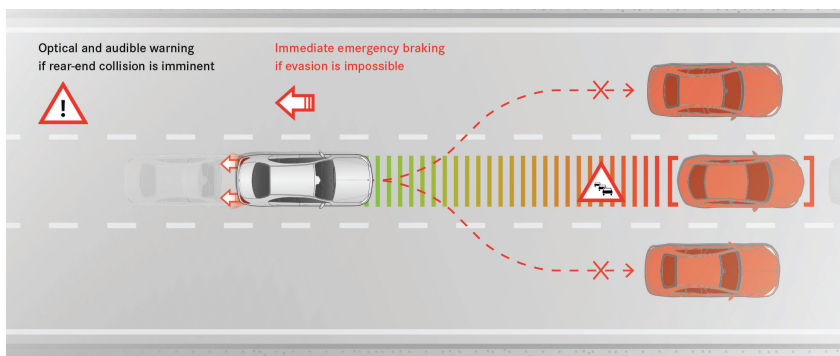
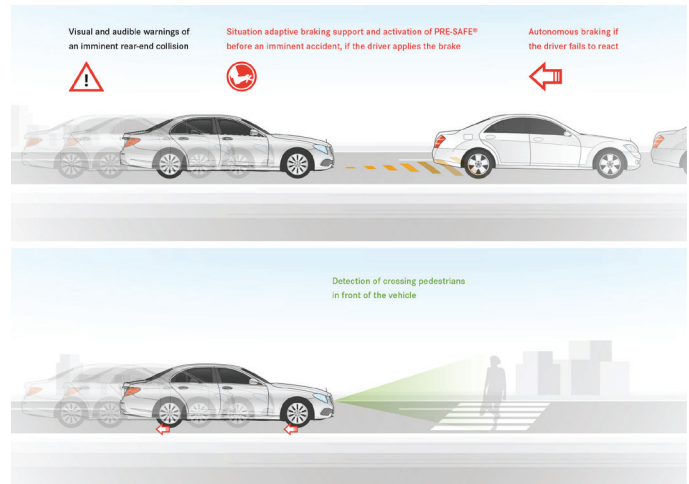


## ACTIVE BRAKING ASSIST

Using the 3D cameras and radars, the car analyses the road in front. If a potential collision with the car ahead is detected, visual and acoustic warnings go off.

Once you apply the brakes, the E-Class builds up the most effective braking pressure possible, even if your pressure on the brake pedal is too weak.

At up to 60kph – a typical urban driving speed – the system also detects crossing pedestrians and will stop to avoid them.



### Congestion Emergency Braking

This system works on the freeways and speed of 80kph plus. If all three lanes are blocked and you're facing a tailback, visual and acoustic warnings go off. If you're not reacting and the E-Class is certain there's a collision coming, the car applies a 100 per cent stop.

The first time you experience an emergency stop made by the car itself from almost 100kph is a day you remember.

### Cross-Traffic Function

Having the E-Class watch for traffic approaching from the side is like having a second set of eyes looking out for you.

The radar in front of the E-Class constantly scans for traffic approaching from the side and prepares the braking system to help if someone cuts across in front.

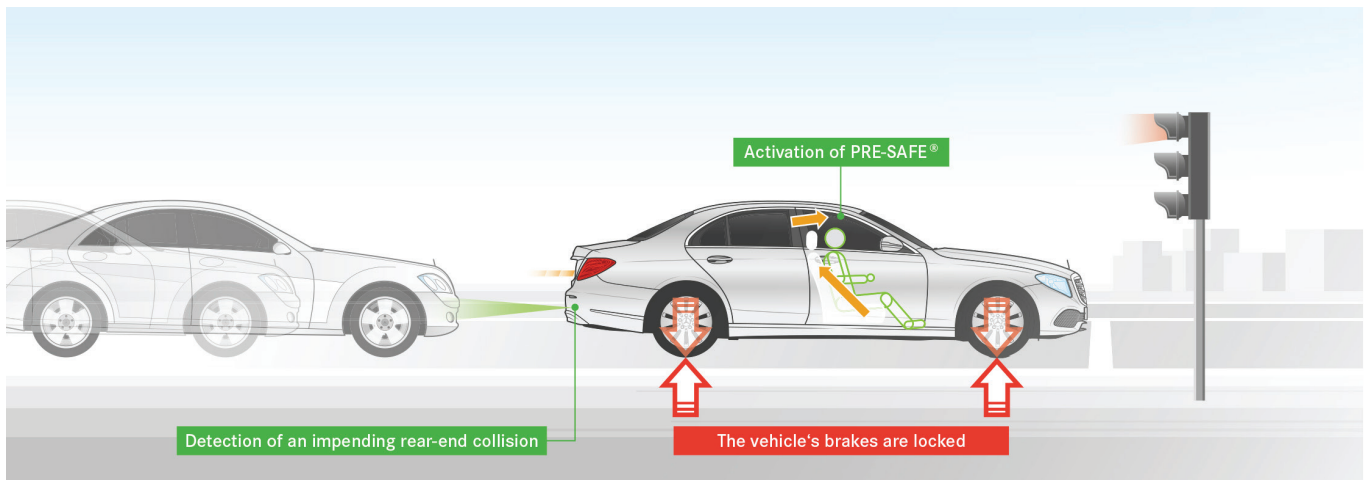
If you don't brake at all, it engages emergency braking to stop the car in time to avoid the collision.

### Parking Pilot

This is a fun one. Parking Pilot is the luxury end of safety; it removes the risk of a scrape and takes the worry out of parking for anyone not confident maneuvering close to objects and other cars.

Parking Pilot maps the carpark for you and puts all available spaces on the screen. You just touch the space you want – and whether you want to nose or tail in – and let the car do the rest.

## PRE-SAFE PLUS SYSTEMS



### Rear Collision Protection

The rear-facing radar constantly scans for incoming cars and your distance from them. If they're approaching too quickly, the E-Class turns the hazard lights on first. If that doesn't deter the incoming car, it prepares the cabin for impact: pulling all the seatbelts tight, shutting windows and sunroof – to keep everybody in the car in the case of a high-impact hit – and bringing the passenger seat upright into a safety position.

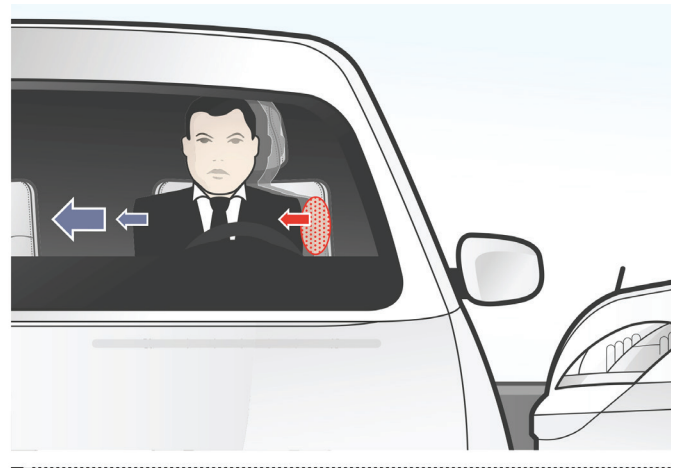
Also if you're stationary when Rear Collision Protection initiates, it locks the brakes with 100 per cent force to minimise secondary movement.

### Pre-Safe Sound

The noise of a car impact can cause hearing damage. Mercedes-Benz invented Pre-Safe Sound in response, another world first for the marque.

If the E-Class knows you're about to have a crash, it uses the car's sound system to fill the cabin with low-frequency pink noise.

The noise prepares the inner ear for the impending noise of the impact, triggering a reflex action that reduces the effects of hearing damage.



### Pre-Safe Impulse Side

If the radars detect an approaching side crash, air bladders in the seat activate to move passengers away from the direction of impact. Moving the passenger clear of the car's side makes a big statistical difference in avoiding injury in an accident.

I've talked above about just a few of the E-Class's package of safety and Intelligent Drive features. I could go on all day!  
The car can also:

- Help you maintain a safe distance from the car in front, even in stop-and-go traffic conditions, using the DISTANCE PILOT Distronic feature
- Read permanent and temporary speed limit signs on the side of the road and adjust your cruise control speed to match
- Be parked from outside the car using your mobile phone 'Mercedes me connect' app to get into narrow spaces
- Monitor your driving behaviour and warn you if it detects that you might be drowsy behind the wheel or distracted
- Safely stop autonomously on the side of the road – using Active Emergency Stop Assist – if it detects you asleep at the wheel
- Warns the driver if they pass a 'no entry' sign onto a one-way street, motorway access or enter a roundabout in the wrong direction.



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# COVER UP

PHOTOGRAPHY Mike Curtain | MODEL Roxy Horner, Que Models | STYLING Kimberly Gardner | HAIR AND MAKE-UP Tania Travers

**S**outh East Queensland swimwear label SunSoaked is back for summer 2016 with a range of sunsmart 'swim tops' and resort wear.

SunSoaked lycra pieces are constructed from luxe Italian performance lycra that's lightweight, chlorine resistant and rated UPF50+.

"When I'm designing I'm not specifically thinking swimwear, I'm almost thinking a hybrid of swim and a fashion garment," says SunSoaked director and designer Kate Davis Steer.

"I want my pieces to project a slick, put-together, co-ordinated look.

"I like pieces that are versatile and can easily transition from the beach or pool to the café, shopping or bar."

Davis Steer founded the label in 2012 after searching in vain for a fashionable rash guard for a coastal holiday.

"I found sunscreen was not enough to keep me protected for longer periods of time and I wanted to set a good example for my daughter," she says.

"I put together a mini collection of three rashies to gauge interest; the response was overwhelmingly positive and the brand has just grown from there."

SunSoaked, says Davis Steer, has many customers who have or have had melanoma or skin cancer or a history of it in their families.

"For these women covering up isn't a choice, it is a necessity, so to have something they can cover up in and feel attractive and feminine at the same time is a big deal," she says.

SunSoaked is available at [sunsoaked.com.au](http://sunsoaked.com.au) and at 25 retailers nationally.

To see more of SunSoaked visit [www.sunsoaked.com.au](http://www.sunsoaked.com.au)







**PREVIOUS PAGE**

Adriana long sleeve swim top, Gemma Bustier Lily

**THIS PAGE:**

Brigit cap sleeve swim top, Anja bandeau Lily, Ruched pant in Alla Caccia



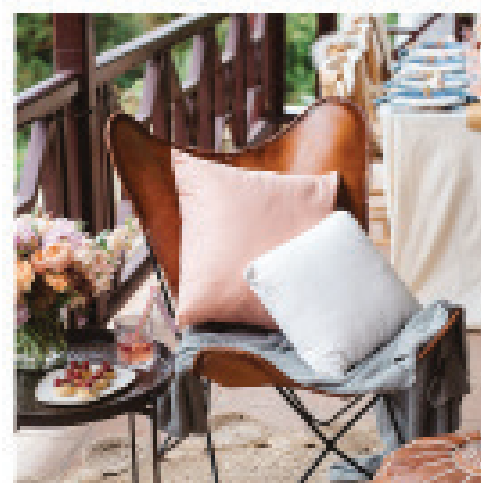
## THIS PAGE

(Clockwise) Lauren Cropped Swim Top in Nero with Anja Bandeau & Coco High Waisted Pant in Azteca, Janie One Piece in Arabesco, Janie One Piece in Nero

THIS PAGE

Sofia Maxi Kaftan, Anja  
Bandeau, Coco High





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## MERCEDES-BENZ GOLD COAST MELBOURNE CUP

The Gold Coast Turf Club is the new home for our annual celebration of the 'race that stops the nation', the Melbourne Cup.

Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast was the official sponsors for this year's race day, and what better way to spend it than in a VIP corporate suite at the turf club.

Brand ambassadors Shelley Craft and Robbie McEwen co-hosted 150 guests on a day filled with racing, glamour and excitement, and of course the ubiquitous fashions on the field.

Hats (and fascinators) off to the ladies and gents who were brave (and fashionable) enough to take to the catwalk to show their style to guest judges fashioner designer and commentator Jay Pask and Miss Supercars 2016 Charlotte Cush.

Guests also enjoyed a Moët Ice bar, three-course lunch and prizes from Coach, Sheik and Scoot.

A big thanks to race day partners Zakazukha, Gold FM, H. Harvey Prestige, Sanctuary Cove Golf and Country Club, MaxwellBeau Projects and Innovative Hiring.

If you'd like to be a part of the celebrations next year then you can always become a race day partner, or better yet buy yourself a new Mercedes-Benz!





A glimpse into Mercedes-Benz marketing of yesteryear, an era of long copy, masterful commercial artistry and press advertising with panache. Curated by the team at *MBGC*.



## Accomplishment

Distance adds excitement when one aims to reach perfection. The ancient sport of archery calls for concentration, a sure eye, confidence, and a firm and steady hand. I am sure I'll be on target once again. Don't you think so?

Another example of a grand sport, more modern and more lively, elegant and rewarding is that new Mercedes-Benz sports car the 230 SL. Until recently a distant aim of mine that too has now been accomplished.



**MERCEDES-BENZ**

**T**his sleek and chic full-page press ad is an archetypal representation of the minimalist look Mercedes-Benz adopted in their mid-century marketing.

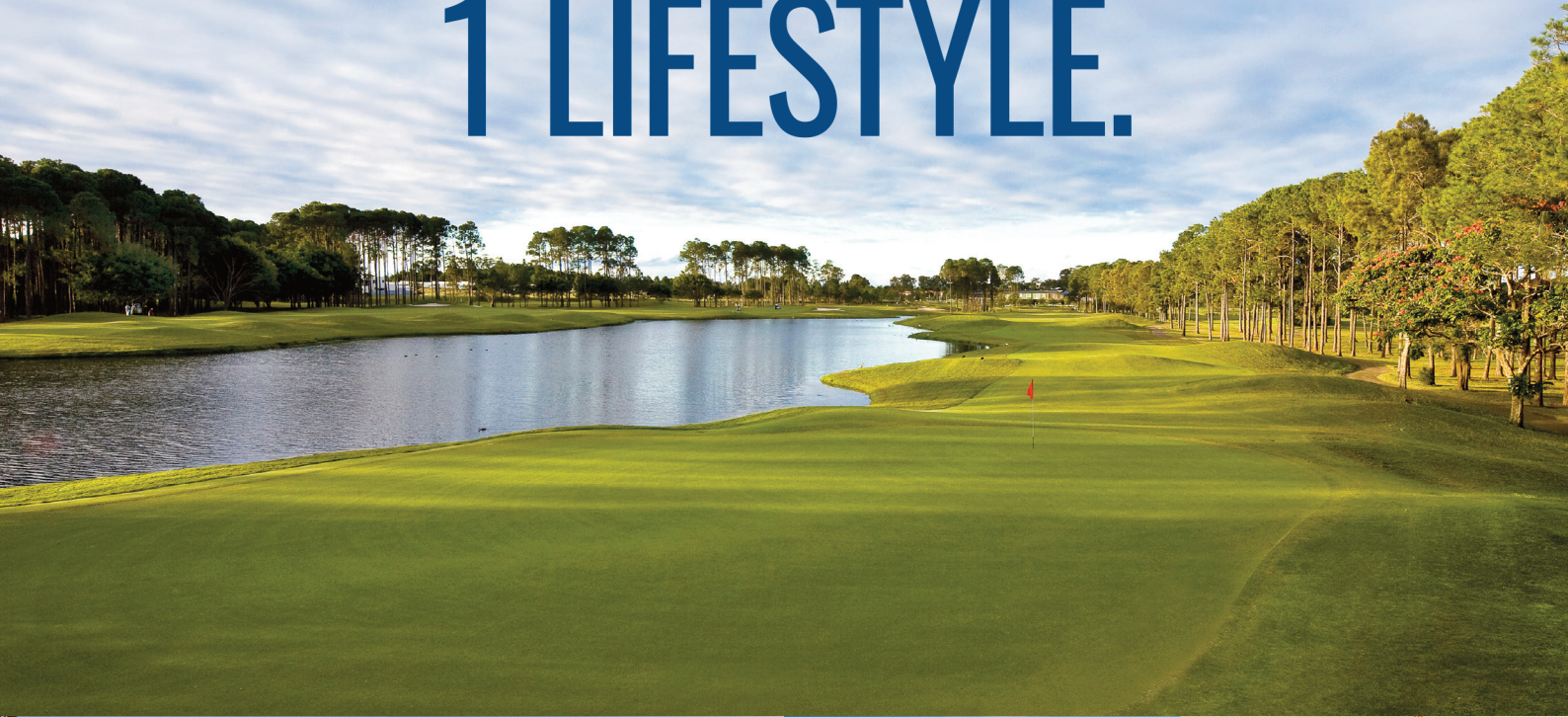
Key elements are the taut, aspirational headline (just one word in this case) and refined central image expressing control and expertise.

Back the above two eyecatchers up with a few deft lines of body copy (that leave the reader doubtless Mercedes-Benz is simply the finest expression of design and engineering going) and it's off to the printer!

The ad was published in 1965, the midpoint of the 230SL's production life between '63 and '67.

The 230SL shaved 30cm from the W 111 sedan platform's wheelbase for a much sportier profile, just one of the top-selling model's considerable accomplishments.

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**Equity Membership** – Full Membership including unlimited golf on The Pines and The Palms Golf Courses along with access to The Country Club Gym, the exclusive Clubhouse and world class practice facilities.

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