

# TopGear

ITALY 

## THE VIDEO PODCAST



*[Scene opens with an aerial view of the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy. The city of*

*Bologna disappears below the frame as the camera races up the A1 Autostrada. The camera locks on a dark green car in the far left lane and zooms in. The roof dissolves and we jump cut to an inside camera shot of Kara behind the wheel.]*

*“I’m behind the wheel of the Ferrari 599 GTB Fiorano, the flagship of the famous Italian automobile manufacturer. This car is fitted with the €25.000 Handling Gran Turismo Evoluzione package, which makes an already excellent-handling car that much better. With a six liter V12 putting out 456kW and 607 N·m of torque, the 599 can accelerate to 200km/h in 11 seconds flat and will reach a speed of 330. And yet the 599’s story is not just about power. I’ve driven north from Rome – a distance of almost 500km – and I’ve been completely comfortable.”*

*[Kara takes the off ramp for the Via Pietro Giardini and follows it to the Ferrari factory in Modena. She drives up to the gate of the circuit her car was named after and pulls to a stop in front of the main building. She exits, dressed in a white blouse with pink polka dots over white shorts and brown cowgirl boots.]*



*[Kara walks through a door and the camera fades to another door inside a garage. The door opens and Kara steps through it, now dressed in a Ferrari Formula One race suit. She walks across the garage to a red car that looks like a 599 that’s been worked over by some tuning house.]*



“This is the Ferrari 599XX and while using the 599 as the foundation, it draws inspiration from the Enzo-based Ferrari FXX. Like the FXX, the 599XX is a track-only car and only a couple dozen were built and sold to Ferrari’s most special clients. This one happens to be mine...well, my father’s.”

*[Kara opens the door and settles into the driver’s seat. She dons a helmet with integrated microphone and straps in. She performs the sequence to start the car and the V12 bursts into life with a snarl. She closes the door, blips the throttle, and motors off onto the track itself.]*

“The rev-limiter has been raised to 9000rpm and that raises power to 540kW. That extra 90 kW is important as the ‘active aerodynamics’ generate almost 300kg of downforce at 200km/h and over 600kg at 300. These aerodynamics make the car illegal in most homologated racing series, however Ferrari has arranged a series of races for owners of the car to ring them out in a single-driver shootout against the clock.

“Now, while this is one of the most powerful Ferraris available, the 599XX incorporates banks of computers referred to as the ‘High Performance Driving Concept’ which allows drivers not in possession of an FIA Competition License to still extract the maximum

performance the car is capable of. Now, you might think I'd find it anti-climatic to be in the driver's seat of the 599XX and just mash my foot to the floor and have the computer decide how much throttle to apply. Or stand on the brake pedal and let the computer modulate the pad pressure and yes, the transmission shifts better than I can.

"But make no mistake – even with the computers, this car is a blast to drive and it rewards being driven. It's just that the factory knows that we're not all Michael Schumacher or Fernando Alonso—"

*[Kara inhales deeply and sighs lovingly at the thought of the Spaniard who now drives for the Scuderia's F1 team.]*

"—and the computers help keep your €1.000.000 investment out of the tire wall or guardrail. Besides, when you spend this much money on a car you can only drive on a track, you want to have a good time."

*[Kara negotiates the sharp Turn 6 hairpin and proceeds to flog the car through Turns 7 and 8, flooring the throttle through the shot straight and then hard on the brakes for the almost 180° Turn 9 then back hard on the throttle through the sweeping set of turns that led onto the main straight, where she mashes her foot down.]*

*[Kara completes a full lap before pulling in to the garage and a gaggle of engineers descend upon the car to check things and download telemetry. Kara releases her belts and steps out of the car. She pulls her helmet off and hands it to an engineer as she walks towards the back door. Jump cut to the other side as she walks out, the camera focusing on the top of her body, still wearing the racing suit.]*

"So on the one hand, we have the €300.000 599 GTB HGTE which is road-legal and a car you can have fun at the track with, but it's designed more for long drives down open autostrade. On the other extreme, there is the 599XX, which can lap Fiorano in one minute and seventeen seconds, but is not street-legal. What we need is a 599 that works as well off the track as on the track and Ferrari has just released such a model."

*[The camera pans back as Kara unzips what was not the top of the racing suit she had been wearing while driving the 599XX, but instead was a replica racing suit jacket. As she shrugs out of it, she's again wearing her polka-dot blouse, shorts and cowgirl boots. She walks along a short road to a white oval where another 599, this one sporting some deep grills in the hood, is gleaming in the sun.]*



“This is the new Ferrari 599 GTO, the initials standing for ‘Gran Turismo Omologato’ which means this is a road car that has also been homologated for racing. As with the 599XX, the engine has been breathed on, now generating 493kW, which drops the 0-100 km/h time to 3.35 seconds and raises the top speed to 335 km/h. It is Ferrari’s fastest road car, able to lap the Fiorano circuit one second faster than the Ferrari Enzo. My personal record in an Enzo is one minute and twenty seven seconds, so let’s see how I do.”

*[Kara settles into the driver’s seat, straps in, and fires up the engine. She revs the throttle hard, the V12 barking like some demonic hound. She drives off the pad and behind the garage, proceeding against the natural flow of the track on a side road that leads to the large skidpad area. Just before the turnoff to the skidpad, she makes a wide turn onto the main straight, settles the car, and pushes her boot to the floor.]*

*[The GTO pulls off the track and into the parking lot in front of the delivery building. The camera closes in to Kara’s smiling face as she exits the car and checks her stopwatch.]*

“One minute, twenty-six!”

*[Kara does a “Jay Kay Victory Dance”.]*

“This truly is the best of both worlds. Savage power, but like on the 599XX, the computers make it usable. And make no mistake – this car rewards drivers. The computers are not there to flatter poseurs. They are there to allow you to clip that apex

just that much sharper, brake those few meters deeper, or put down that almost 500kW of power just a fraction of a second faster – all of which makes the experience behind the wheel of the GTO that much more special.

“So special, in fact, that I had my father buy this one.”

*A Ferrari salesman in a tailored suit appears and hands over a leather portfolio to Kara, along with a Montegrappa Ferrari ballpoint pen in sterling silver and red resin. Kara signs a few pieces of paper and the salesman congratulates her on her new purchase.*

“The price? If you have to ask...It starts at €319.495, but this one has been optioned out to an even €350.000, including leather electric seating, sound system, and parking sensors to make it more comfortable and usable on the road. Now, if you'll excuse me, I want to see how much faster I can get back to Rome in this car versus the standard 599 I drove up. Cheerio!”

*[Run credits.]*