

# FIAT Abarth 500C



**Fiat** and its in-house tuning division Abarth created a distinctive and versatile little pocket rocket with the Abarth 500C. A 140 hp cabriolet that just looks like fun.

First shown at the 80th Geneva Motorshow the Abarth 500C mixes style with sportiness in a package Abarth state is aimed also at the female driver, "it represents a strategic choice by Abarth. With it, the company is making clear advances towards those members of the female public who are seeking not only design and elegance but a good dose of sports performance too."

The two tone paint, which is available in black and race white and two sets of grey, adds some visual style and removes some of the bubbleness. The electrically operated roof comes in black or titanium grey and gets a cleverly integrated rear spoiler with integrated third brake light as

well as a glass rear window. Abarth did a thorough job of tuning the aerodynamics around the roof to provide a flow that provides a balance of wind, road and engine noise for a comfortable and sporting feel when the roof is open. In the closed position the 500C matches the performance of the coupe.

The 1,368 cc 4 cylinder, 16 valve, engine is fitted with an IHI RHF3-P fixed geometry turbocharger. The 101 kW output is enough to touch the 100 km/h in 8.1 seconds when using the overboost function which is engaged by pressing the "Sport" button. When not in sport mode the car can deliver 6.5 l/100 km in the combined cycle.

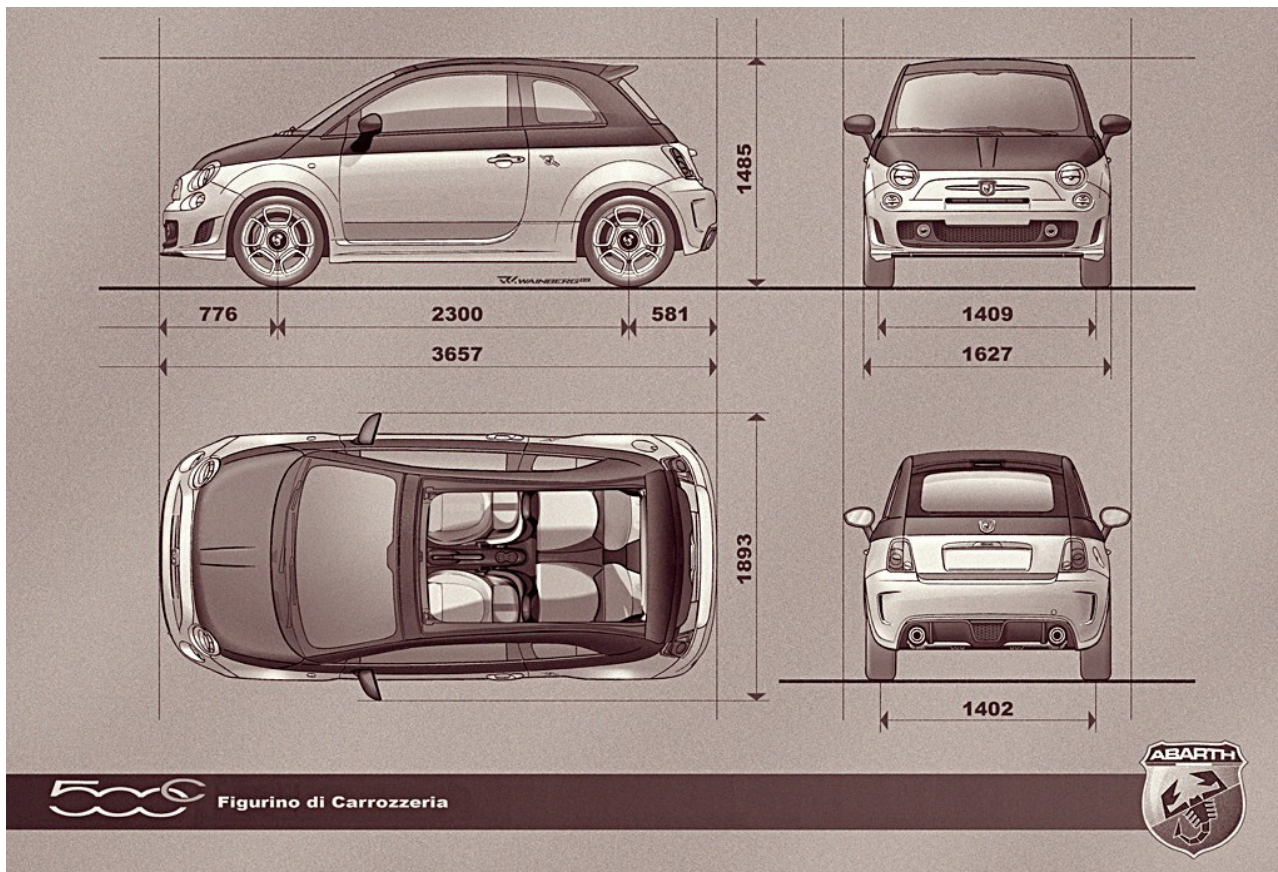
The suspension has been tuned by Abarth and Magneti Marelli. The front suspension is based on independent McPherson struts, the rear suspension is semi-independent, with an inter-connecting torsion bar.

## Fiat 695 Abarth

- Front wheel drive
- 1.4 litre in-line 4
- IHI RHF3-P Turbo
- 140 bhp 104 KW
- 6 speed transmission

TLCs' abound with the little Abarth 500C. There is TTC (Torque Transfer Control) as well as the MTA (Manual Transmission Automated), 6 speed conventional mechanical gearbox on which the traditional gear lever is replaced with an actuator electronically controlled by the TCU (Transmission Control Unit) and paddle shifts.





The gearbox can be used in two modes: auto for maximum comfort, and manual for maximum performance. "Sport" mode can be engaged in both gearbox modes and reduces gear shift times. The TCU is coupled to the "GSI" (Gear Shift Indicator) which provides a signal on the instrument panel (a LED that flashes five times) to tell you when to change gear. In Normal mode, the GSI tells you that changing up will help reduce fuel consumption. In Sport mode, the signal means that changing gear will give you better performance. The GSI sounds like a big PITB.

On the safety side there are 7 airbags (two front, two window and two side airbags plus one driver knee airbag). Of course there is also ABS with EBD (Electronic Braking Distribution), a sophisticated ESP system (Electronic Stability Program), ASR (Anti Slip Regulation) traction control and HBA (Hydraulic Brake Assistance) to help with emergency braking.

An Abarth wouldn't be an Abarth without special wheels and the Abarth 500C gets a choice of 2 newly designed 17" diamond finished alloy wheels.

Abarth have sold 20,000 units since 2008, including 8,400 Abarth 500s. It has also sold 4,600 performance kits and they are developing a special "SS" kit for all 500's. It will be interesting to see if there is any collaboration with Chrysler in the future, we have already seen the results of a Fiat, Abarth, Ferrari collaboration in the 695, which will remain the most desirable of all 500s.

Rod Halligan



Fiat Abarth 500C		
Year	2009	
<b>ENGINE</b>		
Configuration	In-line 4	
Layout	Front traverse	
Induction	IHI Turbo	
Fuel Feed	Fuel Injection	
Valvetrain	DOHC, 4 Valves	
Displacement	1368 cc	83.5 cu in
Power	140 bhp @ 5000 rpm	104 KW
Torque	206 Nm @ 2000 rpm	152 ft lbs
<b>BODY</b>		
unitary steel		
Length	3657 mm	144 in
Width	1627 mm	64.1 in
Height	1485 mm	58.5 in
Wheelbase	2300 mm	90.6 in
Track Front	1409 mm	55.5 in
Track Rear	1402 mm	55.2 in
<b>DRIVE</b>		
Front Wheel Drive	MTA (Manual Transmission Automated) 6 - speed	
<b>WHEELS / TYRES / BRAKES</b>		
17" Abarth alloy wheels		
Brakes	ventilated discs front, ABS	
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>		
Top speed	205 kph	127 mph
0 - 60 mph	7.9	
0 - 100 kph	8.1	