

# Lady in red ain't no sheila

Red goes faster, so they say, and no car is more synonymous with red than Ferrari. By **Paul Gover**

**F**ERRARI has unveiled an all-new dream machine. Its Formula One-inspired F458 Italia will hit the road in 2010 with a top speed on the far side of 330km/h and a pricetag beyond \$450,000. The red rocket has already created a waiting list in Australia with — Ferrari enthusiasts who could not even wait for the first official — pictures today. More than two dozen have put down blank cheques to book an early delivery date. Official Ferrari pictures of the Italian company's next hero show a car which is much sleeker than its earlier mid-engined V8 road rockets, with a lower line and none of the

gawky wings which hang from most performance cars. Instead, the F458 picks up F1-style underbody — aerodynamics and body sculpting to stick it to the road while providing essential cooling airflow. The Italia will take over from the F430 in Australia and sit alongside the droptop California. It gets the 458 tag because it has a 4.5-litre, eight-cylinder engine. The car will be displayed for the first time at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September and Australian deliveries will begin in the middle of 2010.

*carsguide.com.au*



**ROAD ROCKET:** With a top speed of 330km/h plus, the Ferrari F458 proves red moves fasteray be a lady but she is no sheila.

## Home away from home lets you go and roam

A Brisbane-built off-road motorhome has set off to do what it was made for — travelling around the world. **Mark Hinchliffe** reports

**T**HE first EarthCruiser to be exported out of the country was picked up last week by new owner Michael White of New Zealand who immediately headed off to Cape York for a month before heading overseas with partner Sara Billings.

"We'll have a shakedown in Cape York and come back to Brisbane to clean it up and make any minor alterations if we need to but I doubt that very much," he said.

In May he will ship the EarthCruiser off to Asia for an extensive trip which goes through Russia, then the US, South America, Africa and Europe over the following two years.

"With a vehicle like that the world's your oyster," said White who has extensive four-wheel-driving experience, has raced off road and competed in winching competitions.

Brisbane adventurer Kym Bolton designed the EarthCruiser for his own needs and tested it over a torturous six-month, 37,000km worldwide trip that included the



notoriously rough Road of Bones in Russia. It costs \$185,000 and is based on the Mitsubishi Canter 4x4, powered by a 4.9-litre, intercooled turbo-diesel with 117kW of power and, more importantly, 471Nm of torque. The EarthCruiser weighs less than

4500kg, so it can be driven on a standard licence. It has a five-speed gearbox and two-speed transfer case. The rear axle has a Thornton Power-Lock differential for positive rear traction.

**WORLD BEATER:** The EarthCruiser boats everything you need to set up home... including the kitchen sink.

“With a vehicle like that the world's your oyster”

An optional locking front differential is also available.

Suspension is tuned for hard roads with a soft ride and tyres are military specification 36-inch Michelin XZL super singles designed to perform in harsh terrain.

The rear protection bar incorporates a 3500kg tow bar and tyre carrier.

The interior has moulded cabinets, large windows, shower, toilet, kitchen and a double bed. It has solar paneling, diesel water/air heater and a diesel ceramic cooktop.

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