

MIGHTY WHITE

Having done only 74,000 miles, this smart looking 190E 2.6 reminds us that with the W201, you can now get an awful lot for your money

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FACTSHEET

CAR 1990 190E 2.6 (W201)

ENGINE 158bhp M103 2597cc 6-cyl

COST NEW c.£25,000 (before options)

PRICE NOW £3,795

OFFERED BY MTSV

TEL 07976 280738

WEB www.mtsv.co.uk



◀ Just one previous owner and a full service history.

▽ Zebrano wood trim contrasts with the grey cloth upholstery.

▽▽ Six-cylinder motor with a recently rebuilt fuel injection system.

AS THIS MONTH WE'RE blowing out 30 candles for the W201, we have been scouring the ads for a special 190 – and here it is.

In its 22 years, this Arctic White, six-cylinder 190E 2.6 has had just one previous owner, a female hotelier, and has covered a modest 74,000 miles.

A BUYER'S DREAM

"This has got to be one of the most original, unmolested 190E 2.6s you'll see," effuses Mark Taylor of MTSV who is selling this car. In fact, Taylor's enthusiasm leaves us wondering if he'll be able to part with it!

"I've owned this car for just over two years and spent time and money getting it to its current standard," he continues. "All good W201s drive extremely well, but there's nothing like driving a well sorted 2.6. It's effortlessly smooth, super solid and reassuringly planted – it defies its years, it's incredible! I've always said the M103 six made the 190E the car it was always meant to be."

So Taylor is clearly passionate about Mercedes as well as making his living from them, but with this car it is easy to see why. Light coloured cabins are always vulnerable but even after over

two decades of use this 190's grey cloth upholstery looks to be in fine condition, the ad describing it as "unmarked".

Registered on May 1 1990, this 190E 2.6 was bought from Patons of Carlisle (now Mercedes-Benz of Carlisle) with a four-speed automatic as well as a leather steering wheel and gearknob, four electric windows, an electric sunroof, headlamp wash-wipe, power steering, central locking, ABS, heated and electrically adjustable mirrors, a rear armrest and tinted glass. Despite its

functional Blaupunkt Cambridge radio/tape being just about period but not that fitted when new, its full main dealer and specialist history, as well as the numberplates

of the original supplying dealer and even the salesman's business card surely speak of a car that has been thoughtfully and carefully looked after from new.

BETTER THAN NEW?

"The build quality of the W201 puts newer Mercedes to shame," adds Taylor. "In my opinion the W201 is the best car Mercedes has made in the last 30 years and the syrupy smooth 190E 2.6 is the pick of that bunch." So if you want to celebrate 30 years of the 190 in style, for just £3,795, with this 190E 2.6 you can see what all the fuss is about.

I think that the M103 six made the 190E the car it was always meant to be



AT A GLANCE

- It has a full service history, only 74,000 miles and has had one lady owner
- The car has a good spec and comes with plenty of paperwork
- Six-cylinder W201s are becoming harder to find, especially well kept ones

VERDICT

- A handsome, quick, everyday modern classic with a lot of miles left in it.
- Fuel consumption from the straight-six – is it too nice to rack up the miles?

OR WHY? ABOUT...

Used MY2000/1 (C208) CLK55 AMG Coupe (c.£4,000-£5,000)

Used MY2001-3 (W203) C270 CDI (c.£3,000-£4,000)