

£500,000 i-Ferrari

Electric supercar with 329mile range

Launch pad:
Ray Massey
admires the
Ferrari Luce



FERRARI unveiled its first ever fully electric supercar last night – designed by the Briton who created the iPhone.

Already dubbed the ‘i-Ferrari’, the 193mph Luce – Italian for ‘light’ – emerged at speed at a glitzy launch party at Rome’s dramatic Vela di Calatrava sports complex.

With an expected price of £500,000, it was conceived in partnership with Sir Jony Ive, the design guru whose input, according to Ferrari, covered ‘every dimension of the new car’s design’.

But the man who revolutionised communications by removing buttons from the mobile phone to create Apple’s bestseller has here added physical knobs and toggle switches to a modern car – bucking the trend towards greater use of ‘distracting’ and ‘dangerous’ touchscreens.

His design partner Marc Newson acknowledged they were brought in to disrupt Ferrari’s usual ‘comfort zone’,

From **Ray Massey**
Motoring Editor in Rome

but added: ‘Jony and I are both car enthusiasts – petrol heads.’

Ferrari says the radical exterior styling is designed to be daring and different but it may divide opinion, especially among more traditional fans of the brand.

But the new vehicle may come with a papal blessing – it is understood that

‘The Pope was given a secret viewing’

the Pope was given a secret viewing before its launch.

The Luce can achieve 0 to 62mph in 2.5 seconds with a top speed of 193mph. It is on sale now, although the first UK deliveries with right-hand drive will not be until spring or summer next year.

The firm is betting on drivers taking

to their new offering even without the throaty roar of a petrol engine.

While some electric vehicles artificially replicate the sound of an internal combustion engine, Ferrari said the Luce comes with a soundtrack generated by the car itself.

When the driver puts the pedal down, high-precision sensors will pick up the frequencies of the car’s power system before projecting them in a similar way to an electric guitar’s notes played through an amplifier.

During normal driving, however, there will simply be silence inside the four-door, five-seater hatchback.

The electric grand tourer GT promises a range on a full single charge of more than 329 miles. It means car brands once considered gas-guzzlers now have zero emissions.

While prices are expected to be around £450,000 to £480,000, realistically the final tally will easily exceed £500,000 once tempting but expensive extras are added.



Driving seat: Plenty of physical knobs

I broke law burying owners with their pets, says Coles



THE Reverend Richard Coles has confessed to ‘breaking the law’ by secretly placing the ashes of pets inside their owners’ coffins.

The retired priest turned bestselling author, pictured, said he would distract undertakers before slipping in an urn containing a beloved animal’s remains next to their devoted owner.

Giving a talk at the Hay Literary Festival, Mr Coles, 64, explained: ‘It is illegal to bury a dog’s ashes with a body. The reason is that there are different jurisdictions over the disposal of

By **Cameron Charters**

remains. Human remains are one thing, and all other remains another.’

The former member of 80s pop-duo The Communards said he carried out the final wishes of his parishioners while serving at St Mary the Virgin in Finedon, Northamptonshire, between 2011 and 2022.

Now retired, Mr Coles recalled how his sleight of hand involved asking if coffins had been

screwed down. He said: ‘I would go to the undertaker – I can’t tell you this, I am breaking the law – with the dog’s ashes and say, “Have you screwed down Mrs Haversedge?” They’d say, “Not yet,” and I’d say, “Look at that bird!”’

Many vicars have unofficially ignored rulings on the subject.

Mr Coles justified his breach of burial laws by saying: ‘There is a wideness to God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea, and it’s our job to live in accordance with that.’