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Countdown to the new Golf: Golf Mk3 – a pioneer in safety systems

- 24 October 2019: 7 days to go until the global debut of the eighth-generation Golf
 - Golf Mk3 once set new standards in terms of safety in the compact class
 - It is the first Golf with front and side airbags, and ABS has been fitted as standard since 1996
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Wolfsburg (Germany) – From August 1991, Volkswagen kickstarted a new era of safety with the third generation of the Golf. The Mk3 Golf was the product line's first model to be available with front airbags, from 1992, and furthermore, large steps forward in body design also led to significantly improved crash properties. With the Golf Mk3, Volkswagen democratised passive safety, as the improved protection it offered benefited many people.



The Golf Mk3, built between 1991 and 1996

As well as the well-known safety extras, the Golf Mk3 is also associated with many other of the product line's milestones: its body was the first to house the six-cylinder engine (VR6), the cruise control system, the first oxidising catalytic converter for diesel engines (1991), the first diesel direct injection engine (TDI, 1993 and SDI, 1995) and the first side airbags (1996). Also in 1996, in September, ABS became standard

equipment for all Golf vehicles. Based on the third Golf, Volkswagen had also introduced a new convertible, a new syncro II (all-wheel drive model) and the first estate model in this product line in 1993. One year later, the product line broke through the sound barrier of 15 million produced specimens. In 1997, the third generation was phased out after production of 4.83 million vehicles.

Golf Mk3 annual figures

- 1991 Debut of the third Golf generation
- 1991 VR6 engine as the first six-cylinder in the compact class
- 1991 Service interval display in the cockpit
- 1991 Oxidising catalytic converter
- 1991 Water-soluble paints
- 1992 Driver and front passenger airbags
- 1993 Debut of the first Golf Variant
- 1993 Debut of the second Golf Cabriolet
- 1993 Debut of the second Golf syncro generation
- 1993 The first turbo diesel direct injection engine (TDI) in a compact vehicle
- 1994 The sound barrier of 15 million produced Golf vehicles is broken through
- 1995 The first suction diesel direct injection engine in a compact vehicle (SDI)

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- 1995 Laser welding: the first series attempts with 80cm roof joints in the Golf Variant
- 1996 ABS becomes standard for all Golf vehicles
- 1996 Side airbags in the Golf "Family" special model fitted as standard, as option in all other Golf models
- 1996 Phase-out of the third generation after 4.83 million vehicles produced.

About the Volkswagen brand:

The Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand is present in more than 150 markets throughout the world and produces vehicles at over 50 locations in 14 countries. In 2018, Volkswagen delivered 6,2 million vehicles including bestselling models such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta or Passat. Currently, 195,878 people work for Volkswagen across the globe. The brand also has over 10,000 dealerships with 86,000 employees. Volkswagen is forging ahead consistently with the further development of automobile production. E-mobility, smart mobility and the digital transformation of the brand are the key strategic topics for the future.
