

UNDERCOVER ASTON

Casino Royale's racy **Aston Martin DBS** offers pure performance without compromise

BY CHRIS CASWELL

Can you say Aston Martin without automatically adding the words "Bond, James Bond"? Not likely. Aston Martin has been on the minds of moviegoers since 007 drove one of its cars, a DB5 with options not available to most drivers (machine guns, ejection seat, etc.) in the first of these spy flicks. That was in 1964, with Sean Connery as a suave Bond. When the latest Bond epic, *Casino Royale*, hit the silver screen in 2006, it was clear producers were renewing their lease on 007 with actor Daniel Craig playing a higher-performance Bond, one who is more concerned with getting the job done than about his stirred, not shaken, martinis.

The same is true for Aston Martin, which debuted its DBS in *Casino Royale* and also showed a new higher-performance face to the world. The marque was purchased by Ford in the '80s and immediately languished: Production cars and Aston Martin were not a happy marriage. But after an expensive divorce from Ford and the purchase by some deep pockets from Kuwait, the legendary car maker is hitting

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Live out your James Bond fantasy (minus the ejection seats or rocket launchers) with the powerful new Aston Martin DBS coupé.