



## Bavarian Blast

Dashing around Oberbayern in Porsche's 2017 Panamera Turbo

If I can keep my foot down for just a few seconds longer, I'll set a personal speed record in Germany. Hunkered down in the left lane of the A 95 autobahn, 30 miles south of Munich, with headlights ablaze, brief glances allow me to see numbers climb on the digital speed indicator inside the Porsche Panamera Turbo's analog tachometer.

And there it is, an eye-popping triple-digit velocity—except the experience doesn't really feel “eye-popping.” Credit the second-generation Panamera's rock-solid chassis, integrated chassis control, and refined aerodynamics. The stability of Porsche's restyled, redesigned four-door tourer is remarkable, even nudged right up against its 190 mph top speed.

On the long unrestricted stretches of the A 95, which gently wind through the farmland, lakes, and Alpine slopes of Upper Bavaria, the recipe for such a blast

is simple. Find an open strip of pavement, plant your right foot, and let the four-liter twin-turbo V-8 rip, channeling 550 horsepower and 568 pound-feet of torque through the eight-speed dual-clutch transmission.

A wave of thrust comes on immediately, carrying the 4,400-pound sedan forward with deceptive momentum. Thanks to the technology under the Panamera's sleek new skin, the driver is more aware of the scenery flashing by—other autos, road signs, trees—than any nervousness from the car itself. Porsche built the Panamera to be the fastest four-door tourer in its segment *and* to provide comfort at speed—and the car delivers on both counts.

In the interior, the first change anyone familiar with the previous Panamera will notice is a center console now free of the rows of buttons that used to flank its shifter. That's

From top: going 100 on the autobahn; the redesigned rear spoiler

because Porsche's new Advanced Cockpit emphasizes “digitalization.” High-resolution displays, including the 12.3-inch Porsche Communication Management screen in the center dash, allow the driver to control the overwhelming range of functions and amenities the Panamera offers with smartphone-style touches and swipes.

Porsche also carefully restyled the sedan's exterior, replacing the



Manuel Hollenbach/Right Light Media (Porsche images)