

Boxster Christmas Special: 30 years of driving pleasure and a look into the future

29/11/2026 To mark the first Sunday of Advent, Jonny Smith and Grant Larson launch a four-part Boxster series on the Porsche YouTube channel, including a first look at the new 718 Boxster.

The Porsche Boxster success story began 30 years ago when its first generation 986 arrived on the market in 1996. To mark the anniversary, Porsche has produced a festive series: the 'Boxster Christmas Special'. In a corporate collection normally closed to the public, 'The Late Brake Show' presenter Jonny Smith joins Grant Larson, designer of the 1993 Boxster concept and part of the story from the very beginning.

Across four episodes for the Porsche YouTube channel, the pair explore each generation of the mid-engined roadster, sharing plenty of anecdotes and stories along the way. The series begins on the first Sunday of Advent with the 986-generation Boxster, which was produced from 1996 to 2004.

The first Boxster: from concept to reality

When the 986-generation Boxster arrived in 1996, it marked the start of a new chapter for Porsche. Designed by Grant Larson and unveiled at the Detroit Motor Show in January 1993, the concept provided the basis for a mid-engined roadster that remained remarkably faithful to the original design. The model name reflected the fundamental basis of the car, combining the boxer engine with the roadster body style.

From its launch in 1996, the Boxster was powered by a water-cooled 2.5-litre six-cylinder engine producing 150 kW (204 PS). A 2.7-litre engine was introduced in 1999, alongside the debut of the Boxster S, which had a 3.2-litre unit that produced 185 kW (252 PS).

A heated glass rear window was added to the fabric roof as part of the 2002 model update, before the 986 series came to an end in 2004 with the '50 Years of the 550 Spyder' special edition.

The first-generation Boxster was also a turning point for Porsche as a business: sharing numerous components with the fifth-generation 911 (Type 996), it played a key role in the company's realignment during the 1990s.

Driving pleasure as a constant: the defining feature of every Boxster

With each generation, the Boxster has remained resolutely focused on driving pleasure. The low seating position puts the driver close to the action, while a low centre of gravity and balanced weight distribution provide the foundations for precise handling. The car's low weight, helped by its lightweight fabric roof, enhances its agility and responsiveness. Rear-wheel drive also contributes to the balanced handling and thoroughly engaging driving characteristics. Central to the Boxster's character is its mid-engined layout, with the engine positioned directly behind the driver, close to the centre of the car. Despite its sporting focus, the Boxster has always retained a high level of everyday practicality, featuring two luggage compartments – one at the front and one at the rear.

A first look at the new 718 Boxster

Looking back is only half the story. In each episode, Smith and Larson also offer a glimpse of the new, all-electric Porsche 718 Boxster, which is due to arrive in 2027. In episode one, they reveal a first design sketch and the official silhouette of the new 718 Boxster. The connection is deliberate: just as the 986-generation marked a fresh start 30 years ago, Porsche is now opening a new chapter with the all-electric 718 Boxster.

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Video

Image Sublines

Path: Boxster Christmas Special: 30 years of driving pleasure and a look into the future/Images/img_1.jpg
Title: Grant Larson. Exterior designer, Jörg Kirschbaum, Model designer, Otto Geffert, Design studio engineer, Dorothea Müller-Goodwin, Responsible for colours and equipment, Harm Lagaay, Head of Design department, Klaus Ziegler, Model construction, Stefan Stark, Interior designer, Peter Müller, Head modeller, l-r, Boxster sports car concept, 1993, Porsche AG
Subline: The design team back then and the Boxster study from 1993. On the left: Grant Larson.

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