

## Live the Spyker dream through Empire One



By Rob Rothwell,  
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Lamborghini Gallardo, [Ferrari F430](#), [Mercedes SLS](#). My bank account won't place any of these exotics in my driveway, and I doubt that my banker would choose to "make it so" with a gargantuan loan. That leaves few options for plebes such as me that don't involve potential jail time. In steps Empire One.



Not only does Empire One grant access to the noted vehicles, their fleet also includes Bentley, Lotus, Porsche, Audi, BMW, Range Rover, Nissan, and Aston Martin nameplates, and by next spring expect to see the name 'Spyker' added to this impressive list.

### Empire One

"Start driving your dream today." That's the byline of Empire One, a premiere car club situated in Vancouver B.C. Empire One offers private and corporate membership that, depending on category, provide access to some of the world's finest road machines.

The various levels of membership come with a supply of points that can be traded for time behind the wheel. The quantity of points consumed per drive is dependent upon the category of vehicle chosen and the day of week it's driven.

On average, every Empire One member enjoys between 55 and 70 indulgent days of driving per year, with a maximum of seven uninterrupted days. Like most good things, membership is not cheap but relatively speaking, it's pocket change when the price of exotic car ownership is considered.

Depending on whether one chooses Gold, Platinum or Premiere level, annual membership ranges from \$13,000 to \$32,000.

But of course there's always a test-drive opportunity, and in this case it costs between \$3,995 and \$5,995 for four days of automotive Nirvana, depending again on which tier is selected.

### The lure of Spyker

The sight of a Ferrari or Lambo wailing through the streets of downtown on a summer evening has almost hit the saturation point. Something new is needed to stand out, and that something is Spyker.

Spyker you say? Yup. Spyker is a Dutch manufacturer that built its first motor car in 1898. Even back then, its cars were considered powerful and exclusive. Today, after many years in the aviation industry, Spyker is back to building powerful, exclusive rides.

Of particular note, is the formidable [Spyker C8 Aileron Coupe](#); this vehicle will go into production in the spring of next year, with only five examples destined to Canada. Therein Empire One has found its lure.



A pre-production, fully functional C8 Aileron Coupe was featured in a recent open house at Empire One's Richmond showroom. Invited guests were mesmerized by its unique, jet fighter styling and stunning cockpit laden with milled metal and quilted leather.



But the C8 Aileron is far more than an exercise in dynamic styling, it has "supercar" credibility thanks in part to its full aluminum body that wraps around an aluminum space-frame chassis.

Visible beneath glass is a mid-mounted, Audi-derived 4.2-litre 40-valve V8 powerplant that sends 400 horsepower to the C8's rear wheels. This race-proven mill generates 345 pound-feet of torque in its bid to hustle Spyker's latest thrill-drive to 100kph in just 4.5 seconds.

Look for an unrestricted top speed of 300km/h, if you dare.

A six-speed manual Getrag transaxle gearbox links metal to rubber while a six-speed ZF Tiptronic autobox can be selected if shifting one's own gears is considered onerous.

And should that be the case, a comprehensive array of comfort and convenience features, such as GPS navigation, are available to ensure that even more burden is removed from the driving experience, but really why?

I'm told by Andrew Baker, the Spyker rep on-site, that the Aileron C8 is a civil beast to tame, and that it actually performs quite admirably as a daily driver. Its Audi-sourced powerplant can, a'hem if need be, be serviced by your local VW/Audi dealer. Try that with a Ferrari.

#### Spyker C8 Aileron pricing

The base C8 Aileron Coupe with a manual transmission will be tagged at \$252,000.

Throwing in the autobox and ticking a few options such as the Turned Aluminum Package, 19-inch mirror-polished rotorblade wheels and the leather quilted cabin quickly bump this exotic into the \$280K and over price range.

The only realistic means of taking the wheel of Spyker's ultra-exclusive ride on those few days when the stars align for the purpose, may be through the auspices of Empire One.

Empire One President and Founder, Harvey Sanghera, anticipates absorbing one of the first production C8 Aileron Coupe's into his outstanding fleet of exotic machinery.

No doubt, the presence of such a wild car in the deck will draw wide-eyed clients into the showroom with eager anticipation.

If the open house was any sort of indicator, it could be a win/win game for clients and Empire alike. You can check out their vehicle catalog at <http://www.empireone.ca/>.



*Photos: evokeimagery*

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