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Motoring

//cars//

Make: Maserati

Model: Ghibli

//credit//

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Photography Supplied

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A WOLF IN ZEGNA'S CLOTHING

//stand first//

Tweaks made to the 2018 Maserati Ghibli appear to be minimal on paper with subtle styling touches and new badges, but place it in its natural habitat of narrow, mountain roads and you quickly find some other hidden gems lurking in the steering and suspension which ensures the smile stays planted on the face.

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The hills above Monaco are home to some of the world's best driving roads. Narrow and not without their pitfalls, you need to be at your alert best, but they are incredibly rewarding when you get it right.

Behind the wheel of a twin-turbocharged, 430bhp V6 Maserati Ghibli on a crisp, cold, yet sunny winter's morning, hunting down a warm Espresso, I had settled into a nice stride with the car.

Cornering, apexing nicely, keeping the turbos on the boil, it was a rapid climb through the hills which, thanks to the lack of shrubbery from the trees awaiting their spring foliage, gave me a clear line of sight through most corners that wound their way around the mountains like strands of licorice.

The Ghibli chassis was composed through the dips and troughs of the often uneven surface but with the suspension set to Sport mode, plus the fact we were punting the all-wheel drive S Q4 version, reaffirmed my stance that this is the best handling car to currently wear a Maserati badge.

When in Sport mode, the throttle response was quicker, the steering had more weight and its adaptive Skyhook suspension tightened up. Best to choose wisely when to select this mode and not use it as the default setting because it did what it