



# GIANNI FERRARI TURBO Z OUT-FRONT

**Obstinate about out-front mowers?  
The 'Testarossa' of zero-turns may leave you red-faced.**

Looking over this Italian designed and built out-front zero-turn mower, you quickly see it is a well-engineered and well-built piece of machinery, like its automotive cousins that share its marque. I must confess to having never really been a fan of out-front mowers – which is probably due to ignorance – believing a zero-turn mid-mount deck machine to be sufficient. After some time on the new Gianni Ferrari Turbo Z, my thoughts have changed. In many applications, there are definite standout features and advantages to

an out-front zero-turn – especially a well-made one.

A 23hp Vanguard V-twin engine supplies the power to run two independent hydrostatic transmissions and the 44-inch cutting deck. It is worth noting the Vanguard V-Twin from Briggs & Stratton is a commercial-grade engine manufactured in Japan by Toyota/Daihatsu and is covered by a three-year commercial warranty. Power to the cutting deck is via a PTO shaft that is more reliable and efficient than conventional belt drives; a fully adjustable

300ft.lb electromagnetic clutch engages the PTO operation.

The deck, one of the heaviest gauge and solid-looking pressed decks I have seen, is rear discharge with three cutting blades and maintenance-free sealed bearing spindles. The optional mulching kit is quickly fitted or removed for on-the-job changes. The castor wheels on the front of the machine are also maintenance-free and have semi-pneumatic tires, eliminating any downtime from punctures.

A push button on the control panel

effortlessly operates the power lift deck and height adjustment with an easily viewed height gauge located in a cut out in the foot pan. The beauty of the out-front deck and power lift is the ability to lift it vertically without tools or effort. This provides easy access to the underside for maintenance, cleaning or blade changes, as well as reduction of the overall length of the machine for transport or storage. Twin snap-on hose wash ports are also fitted to the top side of the deck for cleaning and efficient weed seed removal.

Safety is paramount with any type of mower, particularly when in the hands of inexperienced operators. As a precaution Ferrari has fitted – as a standard inclusion – a removable battery isolator switch, which ensures the machine cannot be started,

should it be required to leave the mower unattended at any time.

The controls are different to many other zero-turns, with a single speed control lever located adjacent to the two steering control levers. The speed control lever can be set to the desired speed and the twin steering levers are operated with one hand, leaving the other free to adjust the speed lever as required. However, once set, I found it unnecessary to adjust the speed while operating the mower; all adjustments required could be made with the single hand operation of the steering levers. Although this initially took some getting used to, within half an hour of operation I was at ease with the controls and confident enough to tackle tight turns around obstacles at speed. And by this time, I discovered more advantages

## SPECIFICATIONS

Engine	Vanguard V-Twin 23hp, 627cc
Fuel capacity	40 litres
Cutting width	44 inches
Ground speed	13 km/h

of the out-front deck: being able to poke into places unreachable by mid-mount zero turns, as well as greater visibility of the deck extremities, resulted in more precise manoeuvring.

Operating the new Turbo Z out-front has opened my eyes: these specialised machines can have a great impact on productivity through their manoeuvrability and ability to access areas unreachable by mid-mount mowers. Good productivity, along with quality and reliability, are the keys to a commercial machine and the Gianni Ferrari looks to be a well-engineered piece of equipment. It is imported and distributed by the respected Australian owned and operated JSB Equipment, which provides an impressive sales, support and training network across the country. **LM**