

A Quality Drive With The New Lexus RX

Quality comes first with Lexus and the new RX is a perfect example of this and now in its fourth generation it is the best selling model in global terms.

Would you believe three out of ten of every Lexus model sold carries the RX badge and it first

took to the roads of the USA in 1998, two years later it was launched in Europe and since then there have been updates and second and third generation versions.

Positioned in the premium SUV sector the newcomer faces some formidable competition, however it has many plus points, value in terms of high levels of standard equipment, economy and tax advantages.

The new RX is longer and wider than the outgoing version and this is very evident in terms of interior space, couple that with super comfy new seating and travelling in this Lexus is sheer pleasure, the sort of vehicle that would be ideal should you decide to go the length of Ireland.



Aiding the comfort and handling is a revised suspension set up and the body rigidity is up by some 30 percent compared with the previous model.

There is also an adaptive suspension system offered, standard on F Sport and Premier models. This clever system controls the damping force of the shock absorbers at each wheel and to provide sure footed roadholding and not to forget there is all wheel drive.

The entry level 200t S has two wheel drive as standard, thus providing the fullest choice to the customer.

I can recall many years ago when I took the wheel of the original Lexus just how quiet it was, well with the new RX it is even better, ideal for enjoying the excellent in car entertainment systems, which are probably the best in class.

The cabin is the ideal driving environment, luxury with a capital L and surrounded by driving aids and up to date technology. The 12.3 inch monitor is probably the biggest offered in any vehicle today and I really appreciated the heads up display and the user friendly sat nav.

Providing the power, two choices, the 450h uses a full hybrid system with a 3.5 litre V6 petrol engine with a combined power output of 308bhp.

The more conventional engine is a two litre petrol turbo of two litres and my first impression was could such a small engine deliver with a vehicle of generous dimensions. Yes I was surprised; this new engine from Lexus was up to the task. The power output is 235bhp. Allied to a super smooth six speed automatic transmission the driving experience is pretty well complete.



However in our market the forecast is that 90 percent of sales will go the way of the hybrid.

Keeping driver and passengers safe is a new system from Lexus, Safety System+. This is a multi



feature integrated system which delivers high levels of active safety and driver assistance to help prevent accidents happening.

Now to the all important pricing of the new Lexus, going from the 200t S at £39,995 to the range topping 450h Premier at £57,995.

Summing up, distinctive sharp exterior styling and the already noted qualities places the new Lexus RX in a very exclusive club.

In 2016 in the UK sales are expected to be in the region of 3,500 with 50 percent of sales going to the Luxury trim version with F Sport expected to account for 25 percent.

Ian Lynas