

A New Compact SUV from Citroen

by Ian Lynas

With Citroen there is never a dull moment and the latest chapter is the C3 Aircross which is coming to market at the right time as the hunger for SUVs continues.

The new model fits into the compact sector of the crowded SUV sector and next year it will be joined by a big brother the C5 Aircross.

With their baby SUV Citroen has the focus firmly on the needs of the customer and this newcomer is destined to have wide appeal to all ages with its eye catching styling and bold choice of colours with eight body colours to choose from. There are three roof colours and four colour packs resulting in eighty five combinations, thus providing the perfect opportunity to create your own very special C3 Aircross.

The new SUV builds very much on the success of the C3 which is the top seller for Citroen with sales in the UK topping the 95,000 mark.

Citroen forecast that 95% of sales will be to two tone versions, which I admit are very catchy.

My opportunity to get behind the wheel came in the Cotswolds and weather conditions could only be described as depressing, however the bright coloured C3 Aircross stood out in the gloom, leaving me with a smile on my face.

Yes this is a vehicle that delivers a good feel factor plus not only is it stylish but extremely practical. Despite its modest exterior dimensions it offers space aplenty for passengers with plenty of rear passenger legroom.

Need to carry an item or items, well this Citroen is very flexible, boot space is 410L and with the seats folded down a generous 1289L. One more nice touch a two part boot which means you have a lower section where you can hideaway valuables from prying eyes and throughout the cabin an abundance of storage possibilities.

So what is on offer when it comes to power units? Six engines to choose from, four petrol and two diesel with emissions as low as 104g/km.

My brief time in the Cotswolds provided me the chance to try one petrol variant and one diesel variant. When it comes to transmissions, no surprise a silky smooth automatic and a manual, with the latter I found the gear changes sticky, so for my money it has to be the automatic.

Citroen forecast that sales split in the UK will be: 70% petrol and 30% diesel. In Northern Ireland where we favour the diesel route it will



be interesting to observe the breakdown.

Behind the wheel I strongly approve of the high seating position, the raised ground clearance and comfort levels even when the going gets rough.

By the way thanks to an array of driving aids you can feel confident taking this little Citroen off road. Mind you I do not see many taking to the rough and tumble, but the facility is there if required.



This people minded compact SUV replaces the C3 Picasso which served so well during its life span. The C3 Aircross is not only in the SUV club but in a way it is an MPV.

Earlier I noted that there are no less than twelve driving aids, but in keeping with modern trends this Citroen has a high level of connectivity.

To provide even more choice for the customer there are three trim levels- Touch, Feel and Flair and looking at pricing- £13,995-£16,900.

Built in co-operation with Vauxhall/Opel the C3 Aircross is set to breathe fresh air into its sector and in the not too distant future I aim to get much more time behind the wheel and a further fuller report.

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