

Luxury and Safety the Volvo XC90

by Ian Lynas

Make no mistake the Volvo XC90 is a big vehicle and with it comes a gigantic helping of road presence; but one thing is outstanding – luxury.

This is luxury on wheels an area up until now dominated by Range Rover; so should



you be in the market for a large SUV and thoughts have been in the direction of a Range Rover, before you go any further take a test drive in this offering from Volvo, you are in for a surprise.

Okay to be fair, the Range Rover has a lot of image, but for many that is not on their radar, they desire a set of wheels for much more and the XC90 comes up with a lot of answers.

Just like any other model in the Volvo line-up the XC90 majors on safety and comfort and without a hesitation from me it is the most luxurious from Volvo that I have ever driven.

Recently voted UK SUV of the Year, I am honoured to be one of the judges, its design, technology, safety and interior packaging came in for particular praise. “A stunning cabin packed with game changing technology is combined with luxury, space and great engineering making the flagship Volvo a very enjoyable driving experience,” John Challen, Editor and MD of the UK Car of the Year Awards.

I have to agree with John’s comments on the XC90; it is an outstanding vehicle in this class.

Currently there seems to be a huge appetite for large SUVs, just look at some of the big names who have entered or who about to enter the market, Bentley to name but one.

Take it from me the opposition is going to have to pull something really special out of the bag to surpass this offering from Volvo.

My only concern the XC90 just about fits into a supermarket parking slot that is not the fault of Volvo but of Tesco and co. When will these supermarket chains ever learn to provide just a little more space, after all they depend on vehicles bringing their customers as most are out of town.

Now back to the heart of the matter and the XC90, not only does it offer high





levels of comfort and good roadholding, but for all who travel in it, the reassurance of Volvo safety, arguably the best in the automotive sector today.

On road safety is greatly aided by AWD, so should the need top take the XC90 off road you have at your control the means to do so.

The buzz word currently seems to be connectivity. The system used in the

XC90 combines an intuitive nine inch screen display with a sophisticated voice control. This provides access to the internet and a range of cloud based apps, while the option of Apple CarPlay permits you to select functions on your phone, such as music streaming, directly from the display.

My test example was a D5 Inscription and with more than 200PS pumping forth from its diesel engine for such a large vehicle it did not lag behind in terms of performance.

Summing up an all round top of the line SUV with a variety of seating configurations and a huge load carrying capacity. But most of all for me it scores highly on sheer luxury.

