

New From Subaru The Levorg

The Levorg is a new tourer from Subaru and it fills in where the Legacy left off and just one variant will be offered in our market badged GT and with a 1.6 litre petrol engine allied to a CVT transmission.

In other world markets it is available with a two litre engine, but who knows at some future date there may be another power choice.

In keeping with the best traditions of Subaru the styling of their latest offering majors on the sporty, eighteen inch alloy wheels, flared arches and the characteristic bonnet scoop.



Moving to the interior and you are greeted by further sporty themes, a flat bottomed steering wheel, sporty seats and very clear instrumentation.

The Levorg is slightly larger than the Legacy with a generous 522 litres of boot space which of course with the back seats laid offers a good deal more.

Even with the 522 litres two sets of golf clubs can be transported with ease.

I did observe that passengers who occupy the rear seat have more legroom than with the Legacy and from the driving seat this Subaru delivers very acceptable levels of comfort.

I was somewhat surprised to discover that from the modest 1.6 litre capacity of the new engine you have 170PS to play with and the CVT transmission does not hunt up and down through the gears like the systems of the past. In Subaru language this transmission is known as Lineartronic.

One little area of disappointment, the CO2 figure is quite high at 164g/km which puts the Levorg into Band G for tax purposes.

Behind the wheel the sporty nature of the new Subaru shines through and with the added bonus of all wheel drive.

My first experience came amidst the Yorkshire a Dales with section of roads akin to a rally special stage and the handling was good.

However over some of the bumps it did transmit into the cabin, given a smooth surface and the Levorg was a joy to drive.

The modern car of today normally has a good safety package, Subaru certainly has moved up a gear with the Levorg as it boasts a standard comprehensive safety package.

Amongst a host of safety features, blind spot, lane change assist and rear cross traffic alert.

With the Levorg Subaru offers a choice of three colours and the price- £27,495 and in a full year the aim is to sell five hundred.

The warranty is five years or 100,000 miles and the quoted combined fuel figure from the manufacturer is 39.8mpg.

I have to confess over the test route and in the



manner driven the economy figure was considerably lower. More time behind the wheel would no doubt provide a much more realistic figure.

Who are the competitors for the new Subaru, the Volvo V60 and the Mazda6.

Choose the Levorg and I can not help but think you would be joining a rather exclusive club.

Ian Lynas