

## New Koleos Adds to the Renault SUV Family

by Ian Lynas

The all new Koleos made its European debut in Paris late last year, a model which further expands the company's SUV line-up.

The newcomer delivers the ruggedness of an SUV but with the bonus of comfort levels of an executive saloon.



We have come to expect from Renault a host of onboard technology and once again they do not disappoint with their new SUV.

With a powerful stance that sets it apart from its rivals, the new model takes Renault design cues from other recently introduced C and D-segment models such as the new Mégane and Talisman. Renault's signature C-shaped LED Daytime Running Lights (DRL) at the front and always-illuminated horizontal DRLs to the rear make the new Koleos instantly recognisable.

The interior is not only spacious but also

offers high comfort levels and a clear cabin thanks to its opening panoramic sunroof. Returning to passenger comfort, rear passenger leg room which is amongst the very best-in-class thanks to its five-seat architecture. On the practical side of things, boot space is 458 litres and with rear seats down 1,690 litres, facts which will further enhance the appeal of this new Renault.

I fully approve of the One-Touch easy folding rear seats whereby they can be folded (individually or all at once) via a button in the boot and the Signature Nav comes with a powered automatic tailgate that can open or close the rear boot by a press on the keycard or, conveniently if carrying luggage, by waving a foot under the rear bumper.

Keeping all occupants safe in all weathers, Renault's ALL MODE 4x4-i four-wheel drive technology, and with a



ground clearance of 210mm, the new SUV complements its exceptional refinement with all-terrain ability.

We all like choice when buying a new vehicle and in the best Renault traditions, with the new Koleos a six version high-end line-up based on two trim levels, Dynamique S Nav and Signature Nav. Both trim levels provide a truly comprehensive standard specification.

Taking a look at power units, the dCi 130 (130PS) engine is available on both trim levels with a six-speed manual transmission and two-wheel drive while the dCi 175 (177PS) engine is available with either a six-speed manual or seven-speed Auto X-Tronic transmission, both with ALL-MODE 4x4-i four-wheel drive.



Have you the desire to make your new Koleos stand out from the crowd? Well you can with the optional Climate Pack which offers ventilated front seats, heated rear seats, heated steering wheel, and a heated front windscreen, and is available on Signature Nav.

A 13-speaker BOSE sound system and Hands Free Parking are available on Signature Nav as well as the possibility of specifying either Sierra Brown or Silver Grey in lieu of the standard Carbon Black leather upholstery. Metallic paint is available as an option on both trim levels.

Now to the heart of the matter.

Impressions behind the wheel. The new

Koleos enters the busy D-Segment of the SUV market and it will face stiff competition.

Right away I was struck by not only the comfort levels but the generous cabin space and in particular the space provided for passengers rear seated.

My all too brief time with the new SUV included a variety of different road surfaces plus an opportunity to tackle some mild off road driving, however very heavy rain made for extremely slippery conditions and as many will agree, wet grass becomes like ice.

My brief test was with the more powerful version in Signature Nav trim and it delivered power aplenty with a very smooth automatic transmission. I did not have the opportunity to try the less powerful version and currently there are no plans to offer petrol variants.

Worth noting the new Koleos is built in South Korea and those acquainted with KIA and Hyundai vehicles could not fault their build quality.

Sharing a platform in company with some Nissan models, Renault can be well pleased with their new big SUV and I have no doubt it will bring new customers to the brand.

All versions provide the peace of mind of Renault's 4+ warranty and assistance package, protection is by Renault for four years or 100,000 miles (first two years have no mileage limit). There is also a three-year paint warranty and 12 years' cover against corrosion and servicing is required once a year or every 18,000 miles.



Like: the 8.7 inch touch screen

Dislike: the absence of paddles on the steering wheel

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