

## The C-HR from Toyota is Impressive

by Ian Lynas

Refreshing springs to mind as regards the new C-HR from Toyota, a newcomer which will be a core model without a shadow of doubt.



In the past some may have considered Toyota to be dull and boring, well think again the new C-HR is just what motoring needs right now.

I had the opportunity to try the new model in Spain on open roads and in the capital itself-Madrid.

I did remark at the press briefing there was an element of suggesting that this new model from Toyota would be an urban means of transport. Take it from me it is equally at home in the city or country.

So why is this crossover so important to Toyota? Not only does it score well in the looks department, my Facebook page

is testament to that; but it has a quality of build which even sees the top end of the range compared to such as the Mercedes-Benz GLA, praise indeed.

When in Spain I had the opportunity to try both the hybrid version and the petrol; my co-editor will be commenting on the hybrid.

When it comes to Toyota hybrid continues to prove very popular and the prediction for Europe is that 75 percent of C-HR sales will be in favour of the hybrid, a similar prediction for the UK market and no diesel options which will disappoint some in the Northern Ireland market.

After having tried both power options, this time round my money goes with the petrol version and only time will tell but I suspect in our market the petrol version will take more than the predicted 25 percent.

I never fail to be surprised just how good the small petrol engine has become and for the new C-HR Toyota has opted for a 1.2 litre lightweight turbo unit. The





end result is 114bhp at the command of the right foot, brisk acceleration rest to 62mph in less than eleven seconds and on to a top speed of 118mph.

Fuel economy is good, I would expect you to achieve something in the region of 45mpg and the CO2 figure is 135g/kg.

The C-HR 1.2T is the first Toyota to feature a new intelligent manual transmission which automatically increases engine revs when changing down, ensuring a smooth gear shift.

The system also works when changing up, reducing clutch shock to provide a more comfortable drive.

With a low centre of gravity, the end game is a car with excellent handling and I discovered with the 1.2T engine, a cocktail that will suit those in our numbers who like a sporty drive.

While on the subject of sporty, a C-HR has already taken part in a 24 hour race at the Nurburgring all part of bringing this new Toyota to market.

Yes performance and economy are all very important, but that is only a part of the C-HR story; high levels of equipment, great connectivity and high comfort levels put this newcomer high in the list.

It was interesting at the press briefing, the C-HR was being compared with other key competitors in its sector, but one was missing the Nissan Juke; already Juke owners have been asking me what I honestly thought of the new Toyota; this leads to one conclusion Toyota has a vehicle in their line-up which is going to conquer from others.

Everything is fresh and appealing with C-HR, it gets my vote and I certainly look forward to driving one on my own patch and I know that when it arrives it will be a head turner.



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