

The Mighty Q7 from Audi

by Ian Lynas

Make no mistake the SUV rules the road; this is without a doubt the fastest growing sector in the motor industry and no manufacturer can be without such a vehicle in the line-up.



Audi has this sector extremely well covered right up to their SUV flagship the Q7.

The Q family is about to expand even further with the soon to arrive Q2; of course there is already the Q3 and Q5 and who knows this premium German brand may have even further models on the drawing board.

So what is the appeal of the SUV? It is much more than off road capability as you may well know some manufacturers offer two wheel drive versions as a form of cost saving.

To be honest in my book a proper SUV should have four wheel drive capability. I simply put the two wheel drive versions down as more cosmetic.

Even the brands right at the top of the automotive tree have decided to take the SUV route, examples Maserati and Bentley; however Ferrari has come out and stated that they will never build such. Never is a long time!

Returning to Audi and recently a Q7 came my way, generous with its proportions, mighty generous. A seven seater with an abundance of load carrying capacity.



The Q7 is a large vehicle, very much a challenger to the likes of the Range Rover. Once behind the wheel despite its dimensions the Q7 in its latest guise is a surprisingly nimble vehicle, after all it has shed some weight.

Standard specification includes such goodies as MMI Navigation Plus with MMI Touch, Audi connect, Audi drive select, keyless go, parking system plus, powered tailgate and so the list goes on and in the Audi tradition there is a huge option list if



you have the desire and wallet.

My test example was in S Line trim at a cost just short of £54,000; however with options added the final tally- just south of £64,000.

Parking assist pack, heat/sound-insulating glass with privacy glass, driver's side memory function for the electrically adjustable front seats, Audi Matrix LED headlights, technology pack, panoramic glass sunroof, rear side

airbags, heated, electrically adjustable and folding door mirrors and a superb BOSE 3D sound system, quite an array, not a must but what pleasure to have such.

Under the bonnet a three litre diesel engine with a very usable 272PS mated to the Audi PS tiptronic transmission, one of the best in the business. This combination delivers effortless performance and would you be surprised to learn achieving forty plus miles per gallon is not a problem.

Such a vehicle from Audi presents a very real challenge to its competitors and in my opinion not only do you get the latest technology with the new Q7 but you get superb build quality.

That same quality of build is common throughout the entire Q range, but the Q7 is very much the monarch and will we ever see a larger SUV from Audi? That question remains unanswered, however if we continue to see huge vehicles in this sector, I have no doubt that Audi will respond. Just for now I will settle for the Q7.



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