

The Mitsubishi ASX Delivers

by Ian Lynas



Some years have passed since I drove a Mitsubishi, so it was refreshing to play catch up with a number of the 2017 models and in particular the attractive ASX.

This year is the 100th for Mitsubishi, a Japanese company which produced their first car in 1917, yet the brand did not arrive in the UK until 1974.

For the new model year most of the range gets a significant fresh up including the ASX which in keeping with the rest of the Mitsubishi family benefits from the new frontal styling and a host of enhancements which make this an all round good value vehicle.

The ASX is in the highly competitive compact crossover sector and the rivals who line up against this Mitsubishi come from KIA, Nissan, Skoda and Hyundai.

Where the ASX scores is in all round value, four trim levels are offered and even the entry level model comes with alloy wheels, air con and a leather steering wheel and as regards safety, Active Stability and Traction Control.

The range topper features Nappa leather interior in a choice of colours, heated rear seats, twin rear USB charging ports, front and rear blue LED mood lighting, LED interior lights and ASX 5 front-door entry guards.

All of the engines in the ASX range meet the latest Euro 6 emission regulations, with a new 1.6 turbo diesel engine replacing the 1.8 diesel unit.

This engine is available in both the ASX 3 and ASX 4 manual variants while ASX 4 and ASX 5 have 1.6 diesel manual and 2.2 diesel auto variants. The ASX emits an emission figure as low as a mere 119g/km.

The 1.6 petrol engine delivers 117bhp, three more bhp than the 1.6 diesel, while the larger diesel unit can provide



147bhp.

With the ASX the choice of front or four wheel drive, the latter is an electronically controlled system offered on the 1.6 diesel and 2.2 litre.

There is a decided switch from saloons and hatchbacks and there is no doubt the compact crossover is winning new friends as drivers demand more and more in terms of not only performance but a vehicle that is practical.



The ASX boasts a highly functional seating arrangement with a split/fold feature and easy-fold rear cushion which all combine to provide a generous interior. I even noted a useful stowage feature, a 26-litre under tray in the boot.

The interior is bright and welcoming with the employment of quality materials which give the ASX a premium feel.

The hooded instrument binnacle, within which nestle dials taking inspiration from motorcycle design, combines with a commanding, upright driving position to create the perfect driving environment.

So taking all of this into account who is

the target buyer for the ASX? Certainly someone who appreciates style and functionality. Should I dare to say to own a vehicle apart from the mainstream.

Overall the Mitsubishi ASX with prices starting as low as £15,999 and with a five year warranty beats most of its competitors in the key areas.

Behind the wheel not only is the driving experience rewarding, but a feeling of quality shines through, something that is missing from many of its rivals.

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