

## The Vibrant New Citroen C3

by Ian Lynas

The C3 has been a Citroen success story since 2002 and some 3.6 million have been sold with 200,000 sales in the UK.

Now we have the third generation model of this best seller for the French carmaker and after having driven the latest version I can report it is an all round improvement.



Citroen went to the loyal band of C3 customers and asked what did they require from their car and they came back with three key points; safety, unique styling and connected. They left the Citroen designers and engineers with the signal to deliver.

Thankfully they have delivered on all three and from my point of view the new C3 has maintained the true values of Citroen with its unique styling which stands it apart from its competitors in the supermini segment. An area of the market which is extremely competitive.

Key to being competitive simply does not rest with pricing; worth noting that

C3 prices range from £10,995-£17,095, today's customer demands a lot and this latest version features equipment that you normally find on much larger cars.

With a choice of three trim levels and power choices with three petrol engines and two diesels. Is there a clue there? Is the petrol engine becoming the one of choice, not so sure, in Northern Ireland we like our diesels, no matter what the rest of the world may think or demand.

Fashion is important in the age we now live in and equally so with the motorcar and the new C3 has a lot of street cred. The exterior with its air bumps (first seen on the Cactus) delivers an explosion of colour. Nine body colours and a choice of three roof colours, the end result 36 colour combinations, something to suit most tastes.

The exterior colour follows through to the interior, one which is bright and well appointed with a clutter free dashboard and the use of soft touch trim is cosy.

My brief time with a First Drive of the new C3 allowed me to try a petrol and a diesel version, both with 110Ps power outputs. I found both good with the





petrol version just a little more bright, however if you desire ease on the wallet then buy the diesel.

There are encouraging fuel figures and emission figures with the range, starting as low as 92g/km and a possible 80mpg. The latter might just be a bit boastful, but to be fair I must wait until I have a longer spell with the newcomer. Other power outputs are 68 and 82PS and a manual transmission is widely available with an automatic coming on stream in February.

Now to a very special feature, the ConnectedCAM Citroen is making its first appearance on this new model, It is a connected camera (wide 120° angle, full HD, 2 million pixels) with GPS and a 128GB internal memory.

Positioned just behind the rear-view mirror, it records what the driver sees for two main purposes. The driver can click a button to safely take photos as keepsakes or for instant sharing on social media. A longer press of the button captures video for up to 20 seconds, which can then be shared once the car is stationary. Stored content is directly accessible via the ConnectedCAM Citroen free app.

In the event of a vehicle collision, the video system switches on automatically. The video can run for up to 1½ minutes (30 seconds before and 60 seconds after the incident). This footage can be useful as evidence following an accident. With the ConnectedCAM Citroen, a driver can also locate their vehicle and store its position to ensure they can find it in unfamiliar or busy places. I did state that the new C3 is well connected; and there are a host of other features.

