

## UP and Onwards with Skoda

by Ian Lynas



Skoda can trace its roots back 121 years with the actual name being first used in 1925 and 25 years ago it became a key element in the huge Volkswagen Group.

The marriage with VW gave a whole new direction to Skoda, the birth of a range of not only quality products but vehicles that were and continue to be affordable.

The proof is very evident today as more and more buyers are turning to Skoda and currently they take around three percent of the new car market in the UK.

Looking at their range, the Fabia and the Octavia account for 55 percent of total sales and in recent months sales to fleet buyers have

just passed those to the retail sector.

A comprehensive range is of course one of the keys to success from their little city car the Citigo to the top of the line luxury packed Superb.

What I found interesting is that many of the names used in the past have been brought back such as Monte Carlo which was first used by Skoda in 1937. Currently is used on special editions of the Fabia, Yeti and Citigo.

Recently during a drive event I got my first taste of the Citigo, a cheeky little number which would be ideal as its name suggests for city dwellers and it had a surprise in store, a surprisingly generous deep boot.

What of the future for Skoda? Certainly exciting, in September a large SUV will be launched the Kodiaq which owes a lot to the Vision S concept, not a lot is being given away as to what exactly this newcomer will deliver, but we can be sure it will be well equipped and well priced.

We can expect in the not too distant future, a revised or new Yeti, again this has proved to be a very popular model.

With SUVs being very much in fashion then expect to see Skoda take a slice of the action with the Yeti and the Kodiaq.

I did have the opportunity to see a Superb Speedline; the car had been brought in especially for an early preview and with a decidedly sporting touch when it arrives in September you will be able to choose from a Hatch or an Estate.

I did have the opportunity to once again take the wheel of a Superb, again a name from the past, and very easy to understand just why it continues to race up the sales charts.



Not only does it gush with quality, it has high comfort levels which place it firmly in the executive class and again at a very affordable price.



I can recall many years ago when I first took the wheel of a Skoda, it was basic motoring with a capital B. There were numerous jokes at that time; today thankfully they are a distant memory.

While many have yet to take the Skoda experience, a little word of advice, take a test drive, a surprise awaits.

I even had the opportunity to see an Octavia which set a class land speed record and for motorsport fans and rallying in particular the Fabia has gained quite a reputation as a rally car.

The future certainly looks bright for this manufacturer which can proudly state that is the fifth oldest car manufacturers in the world.

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