

## An SUV-Estate from Ssangyong

by Ian Lynas

I have a new motoring term for you- SUV Estate, referring to the XLV the latest model in the Ssangyong range, one which could prove popular with young families and people with outdoor lifestyles.

Basically the XLV is an extended version of the Tivoli which was launched last year and its youthful styling has brought new customers to the South Korean brand.

Using the same platform as the standard Tivoli, the new addition delivers more load space and I

can see the likes of golfers really appreciating this newcomer. Yes an increase of 423 litres in the boot.

Like the original Tivoli the styling is different and indeed may not appeal to some, I must admit it gets my approval.

However it is the standard of interior finish and the excellent level of equipment that will surely draw more customers to the, brand.

Let us be honest Ssangyong is not the most easily recognisable brand, but it is one that is steadily growing in importance. You might be surprised to learn that it is sold in more than one hundred countries, worldwide there are 1700 dealers with wide coverage throughout Europe and as yet the USA awaits.

I had the pleasure catching up with the European General Manager Youngho Hong who gave me just a little taste of things to come. The year 2019 will see a Ssangyong model depending on electric power, exactly what form that will take has yet to be decided. When questioned on the possibility of a small car he did not comment, but did agree that it could prove useful in the large cities of his home nation South Korea.

Back to the vehicle in question the new XLV, not only does it score well in term of equipment levels, but more important for many, real value for money and it comes with a five year warranty for peace of mind.

The model I tried was powered by a 1.6 litre Diesel engine with 115PS, not startling performance, but more than adequate for most. Rest to 62mph in 12 seconds. My test example had a six speed automatic transmission, later I briefly tried the manual transmission and the auto gets my vote.

Options are quite rare with the new XLV, but my test vehicle had a styling pack comprising black diamond cut alloys, black roof, spoiler and body colour mirrors. This is the sort of package clearly targeted at the younger driver. The second option was metallic paints, which I can take or leave.

I did not try a petrol version, but with the Diesel engine, it is interesting that Ssangyong is getting away from the large diesels and the Korando a big brother now has a 2.2 litre Diesel engine.



The price range for the Tivoli XLV goes from £18,250-£20,500 and taking into account the array of standard onboard goodies and not forgetting 2 or 4x4 drive it is value for your hard earned pound notes.

Space does not permit to list all of the standard equipment, but a taster, leather seats, tinted glasses, D-cut steering wheel, remote keyless entry, electronic cruise control, auto power folding heated door mirrors, a 7 inch touch screen, RDS radio with iPod and Bluetooth, an easy to operate Tom Tom sat nav and even a rear view camera.

The model tested had a relatively high emission figure at 154g/km and the insurance group is 18 I can not help thinking that the Tivoli range is something of a pioneer to future products which will emerge from this company.

I certainly enjoyed my all too brief time behind the wheel and I look forward at some future date getting to know the Tivoli XLV much better.

driven August 2016