

A Truly Affordable Lexus

Aimed at a younger buying audience the new Lexus CT200h enters one of the most competitive sectors of the C Premium Segment and it will go head to head with the likes of Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz.

In its latest guise this Hybrid features a much bolder design than the original car which was launched just three years ago and the all important low emissions are a major feature, which can be as low as 82g/km. This news will be most welcome to the business user, a decided company tax advantage.



Lexus see this car as the gateway to attracting the younger buyer and based on the earlier version, conquest sales could be in the region of 70 percent.

The new CT200h has been designed with the European driver in mind and this is reflected by a quality interior where the best of materials have been used.

We all like our mode of transport to be comfortable and much attention has been paid by the Lexus designers and engineers to provide not only comfort but low noise levels and very good road handling.

I tested the newcomer in and around Rome and it came as something of a surprise to discover

the poor quality of the roads including the motorway. The new Lexus coped with everything extremely well.

Technology is now a major element of the new cars we drive and this Lexus bristles with it, an excellent multimedia system with two sat nav options. I can assure you that driving in Rome and I really appreciated the sat nav.

From the very first Lexus model I tested I recall the quality of sound of the in car entertainment system and with the new car the company has opted for bamboo loudspeaker technology, the result audio quality akin to a top end system in the home.

Right at the heart of this new car is the Lexus Hybrid Drivetrain, which features a 98bhp 1.8 litre Atkinson cycle petrol engine with an 81bhp 60W electric motor and a unique engine management system.

The total power output is 134bhp which means you can reach 62mph in 10.3 seconds and onto a maximum speed of 112mph.

The entry level S model, one of six grades and there is a new Advance grade can at best reward you with 78.5mpg.

Worth noting this Hybrid system generates much less NOx than equivalent diesel engines.

Some may desire a more sporting set of wheels, Lexus have the answer with the CT200h F Sport. With its even bolder design



including a more distinctive spindle grille, a high mounted rear spoiler and 10 spoke 17 inch alloy wheels.

Interior treatment includes sports seats, a leather steering wheel, aluminium pedals and scuff plates and of course tell tale F Sport badging.

Further good news from Lexus and it is regards pricing, the new model offers more and is priced lower than the original car, and prices range from £21,995 - £29,495.

Summing up an excellent gateway to one of Japan's luxury car brands, you get a lot for your money.

Ian Lynas