

## The New Chevrolet Cruze Hatchback

Launched in 2009 the Chevrolet Cruze in saloon guise has proved popular both on and off the race track, a sporty design at an affordable price.

The Hatchback extends the appeal of the Cruze as it will offer buyers the style and versatility of a five-door car, while featuring the same qualities associated with the award-winning the saloon version.



With a bold Chevrolet design, the new model combines a progressively styled passenger cabin and leading interior space with a line-up of efficient petrol and diesel options and all versions will come with enhancements to the interior and the choice of three different trim levels, LS, LT and LTZ.

Just like its saloon stablemate the Hatchback has an assertive front appearance created by the horizontally separated radiator grille and the headlamps with twin halogen bulbs; while the roof-mounted spoiler and a subtle crease in the pillar which runs to

the base of the rear screen reinforce the visual expression of speed. The tail light cluster shows attention to detail and contributes to the upmarket appearance of this newcomer.

Moving to the interior and a surprise awaits, copious amounts of space and great versatility. In reference to executions seen in the iconic Chevrolet Corvette sports car, the Cruze Hatchback features a dual cockpit layout. It is separated by the integrated centre stack which flows into the centre console.

In conjunction with the mid-instrument panel, made of fabric or technical grained protein vinyl, and the LED-backlit instrument cluster.

Why do most buy hatchbacks? The answer to that question is simple, the need of carrying capacity. Luggage capacity is 413 litres with the seats up and rear passengers enjoy 974 mm of headroom.

Folding the rear seats forward in a 60/40 split increases the cargo volume to 883 litres. Various storage spaces in the two-tier glove box, the centre console and door pockets, as well as the seatback pockets can be used to stow away a wide array of everyday items.

Providing the power, a choice of three engines, two petrol units and one diesel. In early 2012, a new 1.7-litre diesel engine will become available.

All engines are four-cylinder units featuring double overhead camshafts, 16 valves and either multi-point fuel injection, or in the case of the diesels, common-rail technology.

Both the 1.6 and the 1.8-litre petrol engines operate using continuous variable cam phasing. The model year 2012 modifications include new intake manifolds on both units. Powertrain engineers furthermore raised the 1.6-litre engine's compression ratio and adjusted the 1.8-litre's engine control calibration.

The 1.6-litre petrol engine has an output of 124bhp when equipped with a manual

transmission and the 1.8-litre engine delivers 141bhp and both return 42.8mpg, with the 1.6-litre unit emitting 153 g/km of CO2 and the 1.8-litre petrol engine producing 155 g/km of CO2.

The two litre turbo diesel impressed me the most with a CO2 rating of 147 g/km and it delivers 163bhp with a top speed of 127mph when combined with a manual transmission and takes just 8.3 seconds to accelerate from rest to 60mph. All engines can be combined with either a manual or a six-speed automatic transmission.

On the road the new Cruze Hatchback delivers a firmish ride, good cornering ability and surprisingly good comfort levels.

A well appointed newcomer from Chevrolet equipped with a comprehensive safety package.

Ian Lynas