

The Citroen DS4 on Test

by Ian Lynas

LEAVE it to Citroen to come up with a car just that bit different from the mainstream. The DS4 is the second member of the DS line and one with lots of style.

The DS4 has bags of character in abundance and the styling is certainly eye catching. With coupe-like styling you are in command of a very practical five door hatchback and one which is extremely versatile.

Some 62 countries have voted this Citroen as one of the most beautiful cars in the world; in my book it is a handsome set of wheels but not the best looking.



Taking the wheel and the feel is of a sports model, handling is sharp and precise and the comfort levels are excellent, none of the soft feel of Citroens of an earlier age.

A good compromise in that the ride and handling is both safe and comfortable and it handles the bumps with ease.

Very comfortable seating and a command driving position for the driver and of course the versatility that only a hatchback can deliver.

There is a sense of status, innovation and finesse through meticulous attention

to detail. Tailored acoustics to the premium cabin materials, this model projects an air of confidence and sophistication.

Drilled aluminium pedals, embossed door handles and a choice of five leather combinations complete the opulent atmosphere.

The large panoramic windscreen is appealing with enhanced occupant visibility and it illuminates the driver-focused cockpit.

Power choice is good, five engines to choose from; two diesels, HDi 110 and HDi 160 and three petrol units that were co-developed with BMW, VTi 120, THP 155 and a new THP 200.

The HDi 110 is also available as an e-HDi version. Citroen's innovative micro-hybrid technology, with second generation Stop & Start and boosts fuel economy by up to 15% in city driving conditions with a CO2 figure of just 114g/km.

Safety is very important and there is an extensive range of features as standard, including ESP with Intelligent Traction Control, ABS with EBD and EBA, six airbags and two Isofix



mountings on the rear seats.

This Citroen has also received the Euro NCAP Advanced award for its innovative eTouch Emergency & Assistance system and other safety enhancing technology

includes programmable cruise control with speed limiter.

Three trim levels to select from, DSTYLE, DSIGN and DSPORT, all of which are extremely well equipped.

The car I had on test was equipped with the more powerful petrol engine allied to a six speed manual gearbox, enough to reach 62mph in just over nine seconds from rest.

Summing up a good offering from Citroen, one which should appeal to not only Citroen customers but a much wider customer base.

