

The New Suzuki Kizashi Offers a Lot

THINK of Suzuki and immediate thoughts cast you in the direction of compact vehicles, now comes a new addition to the range, in fact a flagship model which is set to enter the busy D segment of the market.

Kizashi is a fully packaged newcomer which is some ten thousand pounds cheaper than a well known German car which like the Suzuki offers the benefit of four wheel drive.



On sale in the US for some two years the decision was taken to bring Kizashi to the UK market and for the first year the aim is to sell around 500 units. However should demand exceed this figure further supplies will not present a problem.

This is certainly a new market for Suzuki so who will buy? Existing loyal Suzuki customers will find such a package a very attractive alternative to a SUV and in the UK sales will be largely to the retail market.

There is one engine choice and one trim level, Sport and even the metallic paint finish is included in the price which is £21,995.

‘A sign of great things to come’ the meaning of Kizashi for this flagship for the brand.

This newcomer is really the full package with a host of external and internal modifications that include a muscular front fascia and lower grille; body side sill extensions; lower body side mouldings with chrome accents; custom lightweight 18-inch alloy wheels and a unique sport steering wheel with contrasting stitching for its leather seats, gear shift surround and parking brake boot.

As well as having sporty looks it performs in that manner too. I took it over some very demanding roads in County Down and its sportscar-like handling impressed. Often a car with a sporty nature delivers a harsh but firm ride, not with this car, comfort levels are very good.

There is ample space for five with a generous boot with a loading system which permits the carrying of longer items and the rear seat divides 60:40. The boot capacity is 461 litres.



Equipments levels too impress; standard seven airbags; four electric windows, MP3/WMA compatible CD tuner with eight speakers, Dual Zone automatic air conditioning, keyless entry and start and folding heated door mirrors and sole option will be a touch screen satellite navigation system, available as a dealer fit.



Providing the power a 178hp four cylinder engine is connected to a performance-tuned Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) that delivers the driving experience consumers demand. Rest to 60mph comes up in under eight seconds and on to a top speed of 127mph.

The transmission is fitted with an additional shift lever gate as well as switches behind the steering wheel which helps fully optimise driver control as the system can be operated manually through the available programme of six speeds. For added convenience, the CVT system also incorporates a Hill Hold Facility. Alas there is no diesel engine option and in its present guise there will not be such.

In combined cycle driving the new Suzuki has a combined fuel consumption of 34mpg with CO₂ emissions of 191g/km and the insurance grouping is 26.

A welcome newcomer and one which offers much in all of the key areas and to really appreciate the new Suzuki you must get behind the wheel.

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