

The New Toyota Verso Adds BMW Power

The largest carmaker in the world Toyota and German premium brand BMW have joined forces and the result is a superb new 1.6 litre diesel engine and it is a key element with the new Toyota Verso.

We all like our diesels in Northern Ireland and the new engine delivers refinement, low noise levels, excellent economy up to 62.8mpg and low emissions at just 119g/km.

The new Verso has been totally engineered in Europe with the engine built in Austria and it joins a trend which witnesses smaller diesel engines in this sector of the market.

The compact MPV market continues to expand at a steady rate and this versatile seven seater from Toyota enjoys a number of enhancements for this year, new wheel designs, interior trims, the introduction of a new grade Trend, plus the introduction of the Toyota Touch 2 multimedia system.

Returning to the heart of the matter and the new engine. A number of revisions have been carried out by Toyota

engineers and it is allied to a six speed manual transmission with stop/start technology to aid better fuel economy.

It replaces the two litre D-4D engine in the line up for our market; it is more efficient and lighter with 110bhp on tap.

Performance is adequate, rest to 62mph in 12.7 seconds with a top speed of 115mph. A major factor is that the emission figure is lowered by 10g/km.

The styling of the new Verso is appealing and a new colour has been introduced, Avantgarde Bronze and my test vehicle was in this colour. New 17 inch alloy wheels with a smoked silver finish add to the exterior.

There is a choice when it comes to seat upholstery, dark grey cloth with silver stitching and light grey cloth with leather side bolsters.

A major attraction for this vehicle is the adaption of the Toyota Touch 2 multimedia touch screen system and Toyota Touch 2 with Go with navigation and a number of additional features, this is standard on Trend grade and an option on Icon and Excel models.

Worth noting Toyota is the first volume carmaker to make Google Street View



and Panoramio available via an on board multimedia system.

The leading feature of Toyota Touch 2 with Go is the full map navigation which delivers clear display of signposts etc.

The Google Street View provides imagery of the vehicle's location, very useful especially in an urban area.

Apart from the three grades already noted the entry level is Active and prices for this new compact MPV start at £17,765.

Toyota is confident that the latest Verso will appeal both to the private motorist and the business user.

Ian Lynas