

The Stylish Citroen DS5

Being something of a Citroen fan in the past and having owned a BX I was particularly interested in getting behind the wheel of a modern day set of wheels from this French carmaker who as a rule aim for something away from the norm.

I had on test the stylish DS5; this is the company's first production model to feature Hybrid4 full diesel hybrid technology.



On climbing onboard I have to confess I had to take more than a moment or two to get to learn the instrument layout etc. in a way it reminded of a cockpit of an aeroplane.

Oh yes the layout, controls etc. are extremely modern very much in keeping with the exterior lines of this well proportioned Citroen.

I was informed that the stylish 17-inch Houston alloy wheels are available as a no-cost option on Hybrid4 DStyle and DSport versions. My test example was the Sport.

These smaller diameter alloy wheels reduce the CO₂ emissions from 107g/km to 99g/km, the same as the entry-level DSign Hybrid4 model.

At 99g/km both models are exempt from the London congestion charge, that's if you ever venture on a break to the city, and the BiK tax rate reduces from 12 to just 10%.

There are two new Signature packs for DS5 HDi 160 DStyle and DSport models. The Sport Signature and Dark Sport Signature packs are priced at £650 and bring lowered suspension (7mm), black door mirrors and grey or black 19-inch Cairns alloy wheels for the Sport Signature and Dark Sport Signature respectively.

On all DS5 THP 200 versions, the striking Dark Sport Signature is now specified as standard at no extra cost with the Sport Signature pack available as an alternative no-cost option.

Completing the changes, new DS5's e-HDi 110 Airdream EGS6 power train has been renamed e-HDi 115 Airdream EGS6 to reflect a slight increase in power from 111bhp to 114bhp.

The drive train's performance figures, fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions are unaffected.

On the road the ride of the DS5 is silky smooth, which reminded me of Citroens of another era.

Thankfully this French carmaker has remained loyal to its core values, that not only includes ride and handling, but style which sets the marquee apart from its competitors. Perhaps this newcomer is over styled.

Although I did not get the chance to take the wheel I also took a look at the new DS3 Cabrio in the metal.

As the name suggests this is a cabriolet version of the multi-award winning DS3 that uses intelligent design to make top-down driving considerably easier and more enjoyable.

Since its launch in 2010, DS3's distinctive style and enhanced personalisation options have won the hearts and minds of both public and press and it has already generated a string of awards, over 180,000 sales worldwide and a line of special editions and new versions including DS3 Racing and DS3 Ultra Prestige.

A striking addition to the DS3 range, DS3 Cabrio features all the hallmarks and thrills of DS3, with bold styling, sophisticated refinement, extensive personalisation and enjoyable handling. Can't wait to get an opportunity behind the wheel.

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