

The Suzuki Grand Vitara

Many associate Suzuki with compact, sporty cars, however within the line-up is the Grand Vitara.

One came my way recently and I must admit that it has a lot of appeal. Yes it has a rugged character but it drives like a car and it offers good comfort levels and excellent load carrying ability.

The exterior and interior have received a makeover and there is a choice of engines. At the front the bumper and grille have been re-styled with a more angular design and the fog lamp styling has been revised.

Additional changes include inner headlight black accents on 5 door SZ5 models, and new design 17 or 18 inch alloy wheels.



Suzuki has taken onboard customer comments and a temporary use 16 inch spare wheel with 225/70 tyre has now been included as standard, eliminating the need for a puncture repair system. I must admit I have little faith in a temporary puncture repair system and there is no substitute for a spare wheel. As the spare wheel is mounted on the rear door the Grand Vitara grows in length by 200mm (five door models) and 170mm (three door models).

The interior of the SZ3 (3 door) and SZ4 (3 door and 5 door) models are finished with new design seat trims whilst SZ5 5 door models are now equipped with a 6.1 inch touch screen colour navigation system.

This system is powered by Garmin and includes comprehensive European mapping with downloadable updates and content.

The navigation system forms part of the infotainment centre, allowing a number of music options; CD, radio, SD card, media player (including iPod and iPhone) connected via the USB port, as well as via Bluetooth music streaming and phone connectivity.

The vehicle I had on test was powered by a 1.9 DDiS diesel engine and this five door SZ5 model now offers lower CO2 emissions (174g/km) and improved fuel economy (42.8mpg), just the sort of news that all motorists want to hear.

The switchable 4WD system offers true off-road capability and responsive on-road performance.

Behind the wheel of this Suzuki and immediately you get the confidence that the Grand Vitara could tackle virtually any terrain.

For those who like their motoring facts the Vitara has been around for some time and

first came onto the scene some 24 years ago.
Certainly value for money is a major factor with these Suzuki SUV vehicles and for example, the SZ3 1.6 litre 3 door is available for just £15,995.

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