

The VW Tiguan

RECENTLY I had the opportunity to take the wheel of the new Volkswagen Tiguan. My test vehicle was a SE BlueMotion two litre TDI 4MOTION with 140PS on tap and a six speed manual transmission.

The new Tiguan has received a makeover with exterior styling changes both front and rear and especially at the front were it assumes the looks of the rest of the



Volkswagen family.

In our market we have the choice of six engines, three petrol and three diesel, some of which are new.

The focus has been very much on economy and lowering g emissions and that is welcome news for all.

For example a two wheel drive version powered by a two litre TDI 110PS engine has an emission rating of 139g/km. This engine can power the new vehicle to a top speed of 116mph with rest to 62mph taking just 10.2 seconds.

Yes performance is impressive but fuel economy is an even better story. On the combined fuel cycle the version I tried

can deliver 48.7mpg. The CO2 figure is 150g/km and the insurance group rating under the new scheme is 18E.

There are four trim levels, S, SE, Sport and Escape. All models have alloy wheels of various sizes and all have air con, Climatic with the S and moving up range, you get 2Zone air con. The entry level S even has a DAB radio and alarm.

The SE adds Park Assist, iPod and Bluetooth preparation plus Fatigue Detection. The latter could be very useful for anyone who does long motorway journeys; it delivers a warning, time to pull over and have a rest.

Like all other VW models, the new Tiguan is available with a number of options, Keyless Entry and Start System; RNS 135 sat nav, Lane Assist and Light Assist.

In fact the model I tried had the RNS 315 touch screen sat nav system, Lane Assist, High Beam Assist and a metallic paint finish. I particularly liked the exterior colour, which Volkswagen has named Java and the interior was finished in Titan Black Pandu cloth upholstery.

The Golf GTI is equipped with the XDS electronic diff lock and it is available as an option on the new Tiguan; it greatly improved handling through bends.

We all desire a vehicle that is practical and with this new Volkswagen you will not be disappointed, the rear seat from SE trim upwards is a 60:40 split bench that can be adjusted forwards or backwards by up to 16cm and it also reclines. Load carrying capacity ranges from 470 to 1,510 litres.

With the new Tiguan comes a lot of choices, 2WD or 4WD and of course the already noted trim levels.

A safe and secure vehicle awarded the five star EuroNCAP rating and it offers seating for five and an enjoyable driving experience.

Although I only had a short drive experience right away I was struck not only by the build quality, but also the drive quality.

The new Tiguan comes with a 3 year/60,000 miles, 3 year paint and 12 year body protection warranty and one year Volkswagen Assistance for the UK and Europe.

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