

FORD TOURNEO CUSTOM

By Jim Mc Cauley

Riding on the crest of a wave in their 37th year as market leader, Ford's range of larger vehicles includes the new Tourneo Custom people carrier. Test choice was the 300 SWB Limited model powered by the company's 2.2 litre TDCi diesel unit.



The new model features the latest corporate grille treatment with a heavily chamfered nose removing visual weight from an overall elegant frame. Integral body coloured bumpers and side mouldings add to the overall appeal of the vehicle while the metallic paint of the test model added £480 to the standard price.

Access is through standard forward hinged doors for the front seat passengers and wide sliding doors for the rear passengers. A tip and fold single seat on the nearside middle row permits easy access to the rear trio of seats on this roomy 8-seater. A commanding driving position provides excellent all-round vision and for tight manoeuvring the

Tourneo Custom comes with front and rear parking sensors.

On-road, and the agility of the vehicle is at odds with expectations, given its size. Power delivery is smooth and refined with excellent throttle uptake and quality ride comfort, Cabin finishing and equipment are on par with a luxury saloon, and includes head, curtain and side airbags with separate front and rear air conditioning, electric windows, sun blinds and theatre-style dimming on the rear courtesy lights.

For the driver, there is a heated seat, leather trimmed steering wheel and automatic lights with cornering function as well as rain sensing wipers, cruise control and a heated windscreen.

Overall, the Tourneo Custom 300 is an extremely refined and well equipped people carrier that drives and feels like an executive saloon. Priced at £26,775 it undercuts the comparable competition and can stretch fuel





consumption to a quoted figure of 43.5 mpg on the combined cycle.