

First drive

Latest C3 supermini sticks with Citroën's winning formula

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CITROËN C3

Citroën's C3 has been a popular seller in the UK, thanks to keen pricing and a spacious interior. Citroën hasn't rocked the boat with the engines on its latest version – they're largely unchanged, with 1.1 to 1.6-litre petrols (from 60 to 120bhp) and 1.4 or 1.6 HDi diesels (from 70 to 112bhp). Prices are expected to range from £10,500 to £16,000.

The C3's party piece is its giant Zenith windscreen, which stretches back halfway



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along the roof. But it's not standard on all models, and the front roof pillars obscure three-quarter visibility.

If you like your driving slow and sedate, the C3 rewards this with a smooth, absorbent ride. Speeding things up isn't much fun because of excessive body roll and a loose, vague gearshift. Diesel engines enable more relaxed progress than their slightly buzzy petrol counterparts, but they're more expensive.



Citroën's 2010 Airdream is a 99g/km CO2 eco C3 that will be exempt from road tax.

All-new Lexus hybrid SUV offers an alternative to diesel

Green giant?

LEXUS RX 450H

Hulking 4x4s are often lambasted for high emissions and their insatiable thirst, but Lexus has tried to address this with its new hybrid RX 450h.

It's Lexus's only 4x4 option for UK buyers, with prices ranging from £41,580 to £55,485, and on paper, it emits 148g/km of CO2



with combined fuel economy of 44.8mpg. That means annual road tax is just £125.

Based on our test drive on a mixture of roads, the 450h is more likely to return around 30mpg – similar to what you'd see from an equivalent diesel 4x4.

We also found it didn't have sharp enough handling or

composure over potholes. But what you do get is an imperious driving position, great cabin comfort and gadgets, and a reasonable drive. **VERDICT** Cossetting five-seater saves money on tax (and the London congestion charge), but offers fewer benefits at the pump.

This month

Visit www.which.co.uk/cars to read more first drives, including the BMW X1 and 5 Series GT, and VW Golf Plus.



Infiniti arrives in the UK

Nissan's luxury brand has opened its first UK showroom. Infiniti aims to win hearts by providing a bespoke service – customers are given their own account manager, and Infiniti breakdown cover will rescue them even if they're in a different vehicle. Five models are on sale – the V6-engined G37 in saloon, coupé and convertible guises, plus the EX and FX all-wheel-drive vehicles. Find out what they're like to drive at www.which.co.uk/infiniti.



Lexus IS 250C

Lexus has introduced a four-seat convertible to take on BMW's 3 Series and Audi's A5. With prices starting at £34,550 it certainly isn't cheap, but it may have what it takes to beat the Germans. Find out at www.which.co.uk/lexusis250c.

Audi A4 allroad

Based on Audi's A4 Avant (estate), the A4 allroad rides a little higher than the standard Avant, and features standard quattro four-wheel-drive transmission. It's pricey though, from £29,265 (plus inevitable options) and may struggle on really rough terrain. See www.which.co.uk/audia4allroad

for our first drive review.

