



Škoda Kodiaq

New Year, New Car? If so, what will be on your driveway?

The big news of 2017 is undoubtedly the new Land Rover Discovery which takes its shape and presence into altogether more stylish territory. This seven-seater promises true Land Rover performance and ability, plus there are some nifty features available, such as air suspension and a slide-out bench integral to the tailgate to allow seating space when donning one's wellies or walking boots. It is the most capable off-roader yet, according to the car maker, and the majority of engines on offer are four-cylinder types, petrol and diesel, though a six will still be an option. Land Rover will please its customers because the model range starting price of £43,495 is more than £4,000 lower than the outgoing cars. From the same stable is a new shapely Range Rover, in coupé style to rival the like of BMW's X6, and with a price range that is expected to commence around £65,000. Though a Range Rover, the Coupé is anticipated as being more road going than an off-roader.



Land Rover Discovery

A newcomer to the bigger SUV market is the Škoda Kodiaq which can be specified as a seven-seater. It's a highly capable all-road vehicle, and with Škoda's reputation for quality and reliability, has every possibility of taking sales away from Jeep and the Land Rover Discovery Sport.

If it's a luxury car you're after, the new BMW 5 Series arrives in dealerships within a couple of weeks. It's good – but then so is the outgoing model, which BMW dealerships are heavily discounting to clear stocks. There's a bargain to be had if you hurry.

Other cars of interest include the new Ford Fiesta, Honda Civic and Vauxhall Insignia. A small SUV from MG, Vauxhall Crossland X and Alfa Romeo's Stelvio SUV. Out now, though, are Hyundai's all-new Ioniq which rivals Toyota's Prius, plus Toyota's C-HR which is built on the Prius platform. The wildcards? Renault's Alpine sports car, Lexus LC500 Porsche beater, and Peugeot 5008 SUV.

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Suzuki Ignis

Heading the supermini league is the Ignis, a diminutive car from Suzuki the size of a Fiat Panda or Hyundai i10. Like the Panda, the Ignis can be specified as a 4x4, and while it isn't aimed at rough off-roading, it will give security over difficult surfaces. What the Suzuki offers over its competitors is ample interior space with split and sliding rear seats for added practicality. The car goes on sale this month with prices beginning around £13,500. A hybrid model is also available.

If you think a MINI should be a small car, you'll be surprised at the all-new MINI Countryman, which is substantially bigger than the outgoing model. It uses BMW's X1 platform, itself borrowed from the BMW 2 Series, and as well as being available with all-wheel drive, offers more luxury and interior space than before as well as featuring an upgraded infotainment system. A plug-in hybrid model will feature at launch. Entry level models start at £22,465, rising to around £30,000.



Mini Countryman