



Subaru WRX

With dollar-something gasoline prices long behind us, auto manufacturers are re-thinking their not-so-fuel-friendly lines. In this issue of Katy Magazine, we'll take a look at some of the new kids on the block.

Diesel Power

Volkswagen's Touareg 2 TDI is a sharp looking, five-place, mid-size SUV that comes with a full-time, four-wheel drive system called 4Xmotion that includes stability control.

At the heart of this VW is the all new, clean burning, 3.0-liter V-6 diesel. Getting 17 mpg-city and 25 highway, you'll be able to make

the Katy - Dallas - Katy jaunt on just one tank of fuel, thanks in part to its 26 gallon tank. The government has crowned the diesel Touareg as a tier 2 ultra low emissions vehicle, so you can brag to those who appreciate your environmental savvy.

Starting at \$42,800, the diesel equipped Touareg 2 is priced in the same ballpark as similar offerings from German competitors BMW and Mercedes Benz.

Impressive Impreza

In a world of overproduced four-door compact sedans, the Subaru Impreza is one that should be on your new car shopping list.



New to THE ROAD

*Look for these
Fuel-Friendly Cars
Around Katy*

Written By Don Armstrong



Mazda CX-9



Toyota Highlander

The WRX is the so-called 'hot rod' of the Impreza offerings. Its 2.5-liter flat-four turbocharged engine cranks out an impressive 265-horse power. The five-speed manual transmission is a perfect match that helps it garner an 18 mpg-city and 25-highway rating.

The Impreza interior is one of our favorites and is simply well done. The body style is attractive, and its large, functioning hood scoop let's everyone know that something special is under the hood. The Subaru Impreza WRX starts at \$25,495. The entry-level 2.5i begins at \$17,495 while the full-tilt Sti street rocket with navigation and BBS wheels stickers at \$38,795.

Chevy Camaro



Volkswagon Toureg TDI



BMW X5

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A Sizeable Difference

Nearly a decade ago the Toyota Highlander made its debut, changing the way we thought about SUV's. As technology and ingenuity have advanced, so too has the all-new, second generation Highlander that is bigger, better and more impressive than the first.

The Highlander's increased size has created a more comfortable interior, mainly in the form of more leg and shoulder room. Second row seating conceals a unique feature called Center Stow. A 40/20/40 second row split allows the center section to be folded down and under the front center console, creating a pathway to the third row seats. Toyota continues to put a high priority on interior quality and it shows. Fit, finish, and placement of driver controls come together to make it one of the best in class.

Powering the Highlander is a very competent 3.5-liter V-6 delivering 270-hp that drives either the front or all wheels through a five-speed automatic transmission that gets 18 mpg-city and 24 highway. New this year is an optional 187-hp, 2.7-liter four-cylinder engine that's connected to a six-speed automatic. Pricing starts at \$25,705.

More Rides to Consider

Chevrolet Camaro

GM's shining star, the long awaited, all-new Camaro, has finally arrived and dealers have a backlog of orders they are trying to fill. The 30- horsepower V-6 acts like a V-8 but sips fuel like a 4-cylinder. Starts at \$22,245.

Mazda CX9

Just arriving in dealer showrooms, the Mazda CX9 gets a styling refresh but the new corporate smiley face front grille may be polarizing to some. It's still a great vehicle for family hauling. Pricing begins at \$29,820.




BMW X5


New for 2009 is the 3.0-liter twin-turbo, inline-6 diesel that delivers 265-horsepower and 425 lb-ft of torque to a full-time all-wheel drive system. Performance handling with all the bells and whistles starts at \$51,200. **KM**

DON ARMSTRONG'S knowledge and life-long love affair with motorsports has earned him the reputation of being one of the area's most respected automotive journalists. He's a member of the Texas Auto Writers Association.

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