

Towing the Line



PROS 'N' CONS

- Powerful
- Refined
- Practical
- Different
- High price-tag

FAST FACTS

Max speed: 121 mph
 0-62 mph: 8.5 seconds
 Combined mpg: 43.5
 Engine: 2179 cc, 4 cylinder 16 valve turbo diesel
 Max. power: (bhp): 190 at 3500 rpm
 Max. torque: (lb/ft): 309 at 1750 rpm
 Max. towing weight (braked) 1800 kg
 CO2: 169 g/km
 Price: £45,420 on the road

Range Rover Evoque SD4 Prestige LUX Automatic 3dr Coupé

By Tim Barnes-Clay, *Motoring Journalist* Twitter: @carwriteups www.carwriteups.co.uk

JAGUAR LAND ROVER (JLR) is a key player within the UK economy. It is the largest investor in automotive research, development and engineering in this country and it generates billions of pounds of economic activity every year.

Many new jobs have been created to support the launch of the Evoque, so it comes as no surprise that the Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) is attracting a lot of attention. And rightly so, because the car delivers top levels of automotive sophistication into a shrink-wrapped package.

In July 2011, when the first vehicle rolled off the production line, the Evoque had already generated an exceptional market response with more than 18,000 advance orders from customers worldwide. This interest continues today with demand for the SUV driving sales of almost 80,000 units in just nine months.

With more than 110 global awards under its belt, the Evoque has gained critical acclaim from customers and media alike. Crowned Top Gear Magazine Car of the Year, World Design Car of the Year and North American Truck of the Year amongst others, the Evoque continues to

receive accolades for its concept car looks, dynamic driving performance, class leading off-road skills and excellent cost of ownership.

This early success for the reduced-in-size Range Rover has had a significant positive impact on the JLR Halewood facility in Liverpool. In anticipation of the launch in 2011, the workforce was increased to more than 3,000 employees. In March this year, JLR announced it would recruit a further 1,000 employees to help deliver the increased volume of both Evoque and Land Rover Freelander 2, which is also manufactured on Merseyside.

So what's the car like? Well, aesthetically, the Evoque certainly marks a bold evolution of JLR design. With a striking rising beltline, a muscular shoulder running the length of the SUV, and a distinctive taper to the low floating roofline, the motor adopts an extremely vibrant profile with an imposing and muscular stance.

Inside, the cabin provides exactly what you would expect; sumptuous surroundings with quality materials and an elegance befitting of a Range Rover interior.

Rather than using a traditional trim hierarchy, the Evoque gives you the choice of three design themes: the cool and contemporary 'Pure', the luxurious 'Prestige', on test here, and the bold and sporting 'Dynamic'. My SD4 Prestige LUX Automatic 3dr Coupé version came with a silver exterior, a panoramic roof, leather seats and a hide covered dash. Under the hood lurked a potent 2.2 litre turbo diesel engine married to a six-speed, creamy smooth automatic transmission.

Behind the wheel, you feel confident and comfortable. Despite the low roof, visibility is very good, and the expressive Evoque feels solid, yet speedy and balanced at motorway speeds, with very little roll on more twisty routes.

Not surprisingly, as a true Range Rover, the Evoque delivers all-weather, all-surface competence too, which is



enhanced by the company's signature Terrain Response™ system. The standard four-wheel-drive transmission is an innovative full-time intelligent assembly which continuously varies the front and rear torque split to deliver optimum grip and balance. The upmarket motor also has generous ground clearance and better breakover, approach and departure angles than other premium compact SUVs.

The Evoque will undoubtedly tempt rural based motorists who need this kind of vehicle to get around, as well as a new generation of business executives who want a no-nonsense car that also delivers oodles of style.

Hereford Land Rover

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