

# A superb Drive

Ian Lamming drives the Volvo XC90

**M**UCH has been written about the new Volvo XC90 and rightly so, it more than deserves the plaudits.

But while most of it surrounds the simply startling technology that inhabits the sumptuous cabin – cop the iPad-esque dashboard, it's amazing – it misses the point.

That's because this mammoth SUV is absolutely stunning to drive. It's a car, it's a brilliant car, it's a driver's car.

All the ingredients are there for the most rewarding and dynamic experience ever. The chassis is peerless combining comfort and control. Let's not forget this is a whopping motor yet it remains sharp and agile and seems to shrink in size making it manageable even on narrow roads. You sit so high that you can see all round and are always aware of its extremities.

All round beepy gadgets and a reverse camera also make parking easy, even in dreaded multi-storey car parks.

Then there is the motor, an on-paper-modest 2.0 litre. Your skeptical mind tells you that 2.0

litres will not be enough to haul this mass efficiently. Wrong. It's perfect. Clever technology using turbo and super-chargers offer loads of horsepower and torque in a creamy tidal wave of oomph that makes it an absolute pleasure to use.

XC90 is simply stupendous to drive, faultless and then you can consider the huge gloriously appointed cabin that offers technology galore, ambience, comfort, and opulence for all seven occupants.

It looks fabulous too. A more muscular car you would struggle to find thanks to massive grille, Thor-hammer lights and solid flanks. It's incredibly imposing, classy and distinctly Volvo.

It's a Volvo so expect new safety technology, including automatic braking should the car turn into the path of another vehicle, cyclist or pedestrian, even at night.

The combination has moved on the cause of SUVs so far the XC90 belongs in a different century – yet it remains true to Volvo traditions of being a superb drive.

## Fact File

- Volvo XC90
- Engine: 2.0 four-cylinder turbo diesel, petrol and hybrid
- Power: 225bhp
- 0-62mph: 7.8 secs
- Top speed: 137mph
- Combined miles per gallon: 48.7
- Transmission: eight-speed automatic
- CO2 g/km: 152

