

The ultimate



Accessory

Ian Lamming gets in touch with his feminine side.....

Fact File

Porsche Macan S
Engine: 3.0 V6 twin turbo
Power: 340BHP
0-62mph: 5.4 secs
Top speed: 157mph
Combined miles per gallon: 32.5
Transmission: seven speed PDK
CO2 g/km: 204

TIME to be controversial, time to steady myself against a barrage of accusations of sexism.

Porsche's new SUV is for girls – and this is why. Ladies simply love the Macan and why shouldn't they? It has designer lines, a prestigious badge and an interior to die for. It is the ultimate accessory.

It is also docile to drive, easy to manoeuvre and practical to boot. You can see why it appeals to the female race then.

So why the gender-based observations?

Well, boys look for something different in a car, though, of course, there are common denominators.

The male species, driven by testosterone, looks for machismo, power, brutality. Aesthetics drop down the order; look how popular the Subaru Impreza turbo used to be despite its crass, rally, wannabe looks and dodgy interior. It's a boy thing, trust me.

So while the Macan scores highly with its wide stance, purposeful looks and decent power output, us macho male types (I wish) might want to fit a louder exhaust, sacrificing the high levels of refinement for extra five o'clock shadow (once again, I wish). It's a case of men loving the rough and ready look, which standard S relegates for an uber refined temperament.

It is easy to see why Porsche has produced the Macan, a more manageable stablemate for the larger Cayenne.

When you park next door to one there is a fair difference in size, the Macan looking lower, wider, meaner, but not too mean to be pretty.

On the road its manners are impeccable. Engine and seven-speed auto are perfectly mated and the ride is smooth and predictable. It will never catch you out or frighten the life out of you.

Don't get me wrong this is still a Porsche. There's 340BHP under the bonnet courtesy of a twin turbo V6, supreme handling and the added grip of 4x4. But it is so easy to drive you could forget you were in one of life's premier driver's cars – apart from the badge staring up from the leather steering wheel and the wonderful Porsche interior, which somehow manages to capture the essence of a sports car and transpose this into an SUV.

So let the abuse begin, though I don't really see why. All I have said is that the female race has more taste, is more discerning and knows a good thing when it sees it – and that's the Macan all over.