

Quality Assured

Ian Lamming test drives the Infiniti Q50 2.2D

CERTAIN things in life just are, like drinking red wine at room temperature, or so they tell me, or cooing over the size of babies' toes.

These are the laws of the universe and woe betide going against them. It's the same with cars, of course.

If you aspire to quality, if you look a certain way and if you want to feel plush then an automatic gearbox is an absolute must.

Infiniti wants all of this, of course, but the first time I drove the Q50 it came with a manual gearbox and it felt wrong, like rain at a picnic.

Now the freshened up Q50 puts that right with a seamless auto that is much more in keeping with its luxurious ambitions and everything is back in kilter; ying is now balanced with yang and the universe is all the better for it.

It is incredible the effect this simple swap has on all the Infiniti's constituent parts. The lusty 2.2 diesel engine feels more powerful, smoother and quieter; the ride feels plusher, more controlled and fluid.

Q50 is happier in its very good looking skin. It is more relaxed, more refined, more special.

What hasn't changed is the technology that goes into making the Infiniti so impressive. The steering is fly-by-wire, like an Airbus, and in the cabin there is not just one touch screen but two.

The first controls the excellent satnav, the second you can use to manipulate the Bose hi-fi or demist the windows.

The interior is difficult to fault in fact it is splendid, in the front and equally in the rear, where its sheer plushness extends to make passengers feel they are being chauffeured.

It's all very exciting too, like the drive itself and its superb aesthetics.

Every line is designed to appeal, to excite, to shine and Infiniti has certainly hit the mark. It's a car you enjoy parking up to admire from every angle.

The latest Infiniti Q50 is now at peace, at one with itself and its surroundings and that is that.

Fact File

- Infiniti Q50 2.2D
- Engine: 2.2 litre diesel
- Power: 170PS
- 0-62mph: 8.5
- Top speed: 144mph
- Combined miles per gallon: 64.2
- Transmission: six speed manual
- Insurance: 40
- CO2 g/km: 114

