

When size Matters

Ian Lamming drives the VW Touareg V6 R-Line TDI

IT'S quiz night and I'm under no illusions. Let's face it I'm there to drive.

There is wine and cheese aplenty, but I don't drink and the dairy stuff triggers my migraines. As for my quiz question answering prowess? Questionable, at best.

But it's fine and I'm fine too as we drive from village to village collecting the various team members. It's amazing how many you can fit in the behemoth VW Touareg; I almost said squeeze but with a vehicle this gargantuan you never feel anything approaching a squeeze – even on the way back when the passengers have had a giddy amount to drink.

But, like I said, I'm happy to drive because Touareg is Titanic, a veritable colossus, with abilities for every mood.

When you want to chill stick it in comfort, raise the air suspension to the max and wallow in ridiculous levels of comfort as the 3.0 TDI beats with the pulse rate of a honed athlete (that's slow by the way, in case you are not a honed athlete).

If you want to get down and dirty then there

are different modes for the all wheel drive system, a welcome addition, that help you over the tricky terrain, the torque motor this time helping traction and pulling ability with its relaxed and fuss-free nature.

But if you are feeling fruity and fancy a brisk foray along the twists and turns, drop into sports mode, watch as the whole body not only lowers but somehow shrinks to become more manageable, sharper, more dynamic, while the big diesels breathes deeply and draws on a mammoth 262PS of brute power – lusty or what?

New Touareg looks great too with the recognizable VW beak, which is smart and purposeful and flanks that show off well the SUV's musculature.

Inside, there is every toy imaginable including VW's comprehensive and excellent touch screen infotainment centre, a brilliant hi-fi, useful electrically operated tailgate, heated seats – ooh – and heated steering wheel – ahhh .

As for the quiz? Well, we came fourth. But at least we all enjoyed the drive home.

Fact File

- Model: VW Touareg R-Line 3.0 TDI BMT SCR
- Engine: 3.0 litre, V6 turbo diesel
- Drivetrain: eight-speed manual
- Power: 262PS
- Top speed: 140mph
- 0-62mph: 7.3secs
- Miles per gallon (combined): 42.8
- CO2 (g/km): 174

