

The best of all



Worlds

Ian Lamming tackles the new Infiniti QX70s

Fact File

Infiniti QX70 3.0d

Engine: 3.0 litre diesel

Power: 238PS

0-62mph: 8.3

Top speed: 132mph

Combined miles per gallon: 32.8

Transmission: seven-speed auto

CO2 g/km: 225

DON'T get me wrong; I'm a huge fan of SUVs; probably stems from being little or something and the need to compensate.

Climb aboard, the bigger the better, and enjoy a different perspective on life, generally speaking, by looking down on people.

If there is a tiny insect in the emolument it is the fact that because of their sheer size, these behemoth 4x4s can be a little unwieldy.

They are certainly a whole lot better than they used to be and model by model seem to become more car-like and less ship on the high seas in the way they tackle the roads.

One of the absolute best is Infiniti's top of the range QX70S. It is a whopper but it is wide and low slow, ultra-curved and sleek. It's an SUV but it looks much more sporty and aerodynamic than the genre.

This Infiniti looks and feels completely planted. Its wide track changes the proportions making a big car look mean and moody, helped by curvy lines, massive alloys and sexy lights.

Low centre of gravity, amazing grip and peerless ride also boost the driver's confidence in the QX's limits and the small

tactile steering wheel and weighty responses leave you thinking you are in a sports car.

The lusty 3.0 V6 diesel sounds fabulous on start up and under power. It is incredibly smooth, strong and rapid off the mark and when overtaking.

Economy is good too for such a beast with 30+ easy to achieve.

Automatic gearbox, complete with paddle shift, is incredibly smooth and responsive, so much so you barely notice it move up and down the ratios.

Inside is ultra plush and modern with sumptuous stitched leather seats, electrically adjustable, of course, an amazing dashboard and attractive clocks. Again, it feels more sophisticated coupe than austere off-roader – it's delightful.

QX really does provide the best of all worlds as a trip to Whitby confirms.

On country roads it is a joy to drive; every bit the honed performer. But on the return journey it copes effortlessly with spring snow showers and slippery roads proving it is every bit a capable SUV with the style and panache of a thoroughbred sports car.