

drive

REV YOUR ENGINES

TECHNICAL SPECS

MODEL: AUDI A6 3.0L TDI QUATTRO S TRONIC

ENGINE: 3-LITRE DIESEL

0-100KM/H: 6.1 SECONDS

TOP SPEED: 250KM/H

PRICE: R645 000



WATTS ON WHEELS with Derek Watts



One of the biggest mysteries of the 21st Century, for me, is the rampant appeal of Barbra Streisand. Two Academy Awards, eight Grammys... the list goes on. But she leaves me stone cold. Maybe because she gives me such a run for my money in the proboscis department!

You pay your money and you take your choice... well, at least until the Protection of State Information Bill becomes a dastardly Act. Which leaves us with a present day mystery: why the Audi A6 isn't a top seller in the company of fives, *Es et al.*

The 3.0L TDI is hard to fault in any department. Traditional Audi good looks abound, with those winking headlamps,

classic interior with an artistic blend of metal and leather and 3D-looking instrumentation that is crystal clear. There's even an Energy Consumers rating with a green stripe to make you feel guilty about using the aircon!

The nav screen is large and prominent but folds away very neatly and with all the latest connectivity you can turn your A6 into one of the best looking mobile offices in the country.

And mobile it is... the ton-up in a respectable six seconds (with a smooth surge rather than a wheel spinning

blur) and remarkable consumption of around 6-litre/100km if you are not testing the acceleration figures. All for a base price of R655 000 (for the A6 3.0T FSI Quattro S tronic), although you are probably going to tick a lot of expensive boxes on the list of extras and safety aids.

So why doesn't it set the world alight? The only explanation I can find is that it looks like...well... just another Audi. And in walking that tightrope between brand loyalty and exciting design change, it seems that conservatism has won the day.

Which you can't say about the Nissan Juke. It's funky, fun and fast, especially if you add the turbocharged 1.6 DIG-T Tekna to your shopping basket at R253 000. And it is already making a fashion statement in the small SUV sector with "uniquely designed indicators staring you down from the fiercely sculpted bonnet".

The specs are not mean spirited. The Tekna arrives on the showroom floor with hands-free, cruise control, the mandatory stop/start button, three drive modes (Normal, Sport and Eco) and a nifty onboard computer to check your fuel

economy. And there are audio controls on the steering wheel for the MP3, USB, iPod and aux-in audio system.

Where have they gone wrong? Well, where most of the manufacturers for the young (or young-at-heart) are going wrong. The speakers are pretty average. And eventually the one cent coin will drop that speakers-on-wheels are what the first time buyers really want!

As for the A6...the test model came with throbbing Bang & Olufsens! Maybe I should give Barbra another chance... 



TECHNICAL SPECS

MODEL: NISSAN JUKE
 ENGINE: 1.6 DIG-T TEKNA
 0-100KM/H: 8 SECONDS
 TOP SPEED: 215KM/H
 PRICE: R253 000