

# Chrysler snatches ICOTY honours

**MOTORING STAFF**

CHRYSLER LLC's "family rooms on wheels" have been awarded the motor industry's highest honours.

For the first time in the award's history, the all-new 2008 Chrysler Town & Country (Grand Voyager in South Africa) and its USA-only Dodge Grand Caravan sibling captured all of the votes for best minivans in the 2008 International Car of the Year Awards (ICOTY).

The 2008 Chrysler Town & Country earned first-place in two categories, International Truck of the Year and The Most Compatible Minivan of the Year whilst the Dodge Grand Caravan earned second place in The Most Compatible Minivan of the Year category as well. The ICOTY awards are voted on by a panel representing a variety of automotive media and considers vehicles made in all countries around the world that are sold in North America.

Now in their fifth generations, the Chrysler and Dodge are said to offer advantages in the areas of

safety, fuel economy, functionality and design.

Chrysler says that among the all-new minivans' 35 new or improved features are three distinct seating systems that include the Swivel n' Go seat system, the Stow n' Go seating system and a second-row bench seat with fold-in-the-floor third-row seat. Swivel n' Go offers second-row seats that swivel 180 degrees to face the third row with a removable table that installs between the two rows, covered storage bins in the second-row floor, third-row uncovered storage and fold-in-the-floor third-row seating. The vehicles are fitted with multi-stage driver and low-risk

deployment air bags, as well as all-row supplemental side-curtain air bags with added rollover protection and an electronic stability program with traction control and brake assist. Convenience features include one-touch power third row folding seat and Yes Essentials stain-resistant, odour-resistant and anti-static fabric seats, a premium front console that slides rearward 530 mm, and 13 cup or bottle holders. A minivan-first is a six-speed transmission available with V6 engines. The new Chrysler Grand Voyager will arrive on the local market in the second quarter of 2008.



Chrysler and Dodge shared the ICOTY minivan spoils.  
PHOTOS: QUICKPIC

