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Luxurious and versatile



GLEN HILL

The new Chrysler Grand Voyager offers yet more luxury and versatility to those in the market for a high-end MPV.

Of course, those looking for this type of vehicle will usually be far more interested in its features than in power, handling or performance.

The Grand Voyager caters to this extremely well, with a range of features too numerous to list here and certainly too much to experience on a launch drive.

The Chrysler is available locally in LX and Limited models, using either a 3.8/ V6 petrol or 2.8/ turbo diesel engines.

These use a six-speed automatic transmission, which was my only real disappointment in the Voyager. A twin clutch automatic is on the way and this is likely to be a huge improvement.

TECHNOLOGY

Given that this technology, made popular by Audi under the name DSG is available, it is hard to understand why manufacturers even bother with traditional autos.

The 3.8/ V6 engine produces 147 kW and 312 Nm, while the 2.8/ turbo diesel engine produces

120 kW and 360 Nm.

This was the version I drove and, gearbox aside, it appeared quite capable of doing the job. Importantly it appeared economical, which in such a large car is something of a relief.

The engine was smooth as was the ride and, dynamically, that's about all that matters in this segment.

The suspension is soft and the handling is predictably a little vague, but quite good enough and well worth the compromise for a luxury bus.

The newest seating system is dubbed Swivel 'n Go. It essentially offers second-row seats that swivel 180 degrees to face the third row and a removable table that installs between the two rows.

There are covered storage bins in the floor of the second row, third-row uncovered storage and fold-in-the-floor third-row seating.

Standard equipment in the Grand Voyager is the Stow 'n Go seating and storage system, where both second- and third-row seats fold into the floor. With both systems, Grand Voyager offers a one-touch power folding third-row seat.

Both systems are impressive and are what the Grand Voyager is really about. Versatility, comfort and convenience.

To this end the Grand Voyager is packed with features, not essential, but lovely to have touches.



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