

Press Release



Passat Awarded Renowned What Car? Trophy as “Best Family Car”

The British jury says: “The best family car on sale today.”

Wolfsburg, 20 January 2006 - Recently awarded the 2006 “Gelber Engel” (“Yellow Angel”) prize by Germany’s ADAC automobile club, the Volkswagen

Passat now rakes in another prestigious prize, the “Best Family Car” trophy awarded by the British automobile magazine What Car?

A jury of ten from the editorial staff of What Car? magazine selected its winner in the “Best Family Car” category from among a total of five different models, searching for the one car which combined all the requisite virtues: A car that affords space and protection for adults, children and their luggage while performing impressively on the motorway and in urban traffic alike. In short, the jury was looking for a safe, reliable and economical family friend!

The vote went to the Passat. This model is the sixth generation of a bestseller which also received the highest possible Euro NCAP score of five stars for vehicle safety after crash testing was performed. The magazine jury was impressed by a car which displayed the finest of characteristics on all counts. The vehicle’s style sets it apart from its competitors, states a comment in the latest issue of What Car? But it was not its visual design alone which appealed to the jury. The Passat’s inner values, including high-tech features normally found in the luxury class (an electronic parking brake, for instance, and LED rear lights), and the car’s good value for money were also compelling factors for the magazine staff.

According to the jury, the Passat satisfies to a high degree the demands for robust design and passenger comfort while at the same time affording space to spare both in the passenger compartment and in the boot. The jury expressly praised the car’s engine capacity, in this case a 2-litre turbo diesel (TDI) with 103 kW/140 hp, and its firm suspension and control, concluding that it “is comfortably the best family car on sale today.”

Since it was introduced in the UK in May 2005, the new Passat has won all What Car? tests in which it has participated. What Car? is the UK’s leading monthly automobile magazine, and this is the 29th time it has awarded its highly reputed trophies.

The new Passat – A champion:

It was only yesterday, Thursday, that the Passat received the coveted 2006 “Gelber Engel” (“Yellow Angel”) prize awarded by Germany’s ADAC automobile club. This is a contest in which 320,000 readers cast their vote. The Passat came out the winner in the category “Car”. The Passat also took the “2005 Golden Steering Wheel”, a prize awarded by Germany’s Bild am Sonntag newspaper. Since their market launch, the Passat and the Passat Variant have received several different awards in Germany and elsewhere. The number of vehicle registrations recorded by the German Federal Office for Motor Traffic in 2005 illustrates that the Passat is extremely well received by customers as well. With 98,136 new registrations for this automobile and a market share of 17.3 per cent (11,705 vehicles in December; 26.7 per cent market share), the new Passat has established itself as a top seller in the mid-class segment within a matter of only a few months.