

A breathtaking feline from Jaguar...



Five-star road test verdicts are pretty rare in this business, but the XFR deserves one more than just about any car we can think of right now. It is a quite extraordinary machine, and what defines it most obviously is its vast, almost never-ending range of attributes. On one hand it plays the role of refined mile-eater at least as well as any so-called luxury car, and on the other it has sufficient raw dynamic ability to drop a BMW M5 in a heartbeat. It is also extremely well made, very well equipped, entirely comfortable for four people and their luggage and several thousand pounds cheaper than its nearest rivals, none of which are as fast in the real world. Jaguar has produced a true world-beater. As a sign of things to come, it shines as brightly as any Jaguar we've ever driven, and there have been some pretty good ones over the years.

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Lincolnshire Life's Simon Taylor takes this astonishing Jaguar to a test drive and is truly impressed.

Now then, if you were impressed by the new Jaguar XF and its turbocharged 2.7-litre diesel, 3.0-litre V6, 4.2-litre V8 not to mention the 4.2-litre supercharged V8 range of models, prepare to be even more impressed. Just out is an even more highly charged XFR model - a supercharged 5.0-litre V8. And as if that were not sufficient to blast the opposition out of the water so to speak, there

are also two new 3.0-litre V6 Diesel engines of which, more another time.

The 5.0-litre will deliver 503bhp when fitted with a supercharger. It is available naturally aspirated though, if there seem too many horses for you to deal with. However even this engine will deliver 397bhp so you will still be able to show a clean pair of heels to the opposition if you



can find somewhere to drive that fast legally! Still, the supercharged model has an impressive 461 lb/ft of pulling power and few of its rivals can equal that! In spite of all that it still manages to get under 300g/km CO2 when producing an acceleration figure claimed to be 0 - 62mph in just 4.7 seconds - which is faster than some drivers I know can even think! Top speed (in the standard vehicle) has been electronically limited to 155mph, which is fast enough in all conscience.

Allied to this are an electronically controlled differential and suspension system. These make sure the requisite power gets to the appropriate wheels for cornering and accelerating - bliss on the motorway!

Jaguar have taken testing of the XFR to astonishing lengths. On a test run in a modified version of the supercharged 5.0-litre, that took place on salt flats in America, an amazing 225.675mph was achieved by relatively modest adjustments to the standard vehicle. A new air intake, revised supercharger setting and exhaust system were the only modifications carried out internally. Interestingly, the gearbox remained untouched and as standard. Externally a new front skirt and rear wing provided the stability and down-force as the power was boosted to 600bhp and broke the fastest speed ever achieved in a Jaguar.

Chief engineer Malcolm Sandford maintains the V8 to

be one of the most efficient engines in this class. He insists direct injection is mainly responsible for both performance and emissions. It allows for better control of fuel mixture concentrations and a higher compression ratio. Whether to enhance all this or just to make a unique design statement, instead of the injector being placed at the side of the combustion chamber, this Jag has it next to the spark plug. The original CATS suspension and the two automatic stiffness settings have been replaced by a continuously-variable Bilstein system using side valves.

To look at you'll see the new 5.0-litre V8 has a new front-end design with larger, mesh lined chrome air intakes - very smart and essential to help cool brakes and power plant! The bonnet also sports a pair of vents to provide further help cooling the engine. Sill extensions with a subtle and gentle twist, take the eye along the length of the car towards the back where you'll find a neat boot spoiler and four business-like tailpipes. Super wide tyres on 20-inch diameter alloy wheels printed with 'Jaguar Supercharged' lettering complete the view and a new body kit is included in the price.

Inside the air of quiet and understated luxury with the usual dark wood and polished aluminium touches surround the two newly designed, supremely comfortable, body-embracing front seats.

£60,000 is all you need to own one of these beautiful cars!

Simon Taylor

