CR Recommended

2020 Subaru BRZ

CR MPG
Overall: 30 / City: 23 / Hwy: 37 mpg
$2 of 10 Sports/Sporty Cars Under $40,000

ROAD TEST
CR MPG: 30 / City: 23 / Hwy: 37 mpg

PREDICTED RELIABILITY
5/5

PREDICTED OWNER SATISFACTION
5/5

CR Road Test Results

With the BRZ, Subaru has hit the spot for driving enthusiasts with an exhilarating drive sports coupe that also happens to be affordable and economical at the pump. Co-developed by Subaru and Toyota, the BRZ and 86 (formerly Scion FR-S) are nearly identical twins. The only differences are styling nuances and insurance-industry crash tests.

Each is powered by the same 205-hp, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, mated to a slick-shifting six-speed manual transmission. That combo delivers ample acceleration, thanks to well-chosen gear ratios, and impressive fuel economy of 30 mpg.

But these rear-wheel-drive coupes aren’t about raw power or screaming at the pump. Their magic comes from the superb-sharp, agile handling and excellent braking that makes them so enthralling to drive, whether on a track or a twisty, back-country road.

Their trade-offs are typical for sports cars: a jittery ride, noisy cabin, and vestigial rear seats. And getting in and out of these low-slung cars requires a bit of ducking.

Best Version to Get

Just two trims are offered: Limited and tS, with the choice of a six-speed manual or six-speed automatic transmission. Both are fairly well equipped. The Limited gets you leather and synthetic suede heated front seats, dual-zone automatic climate control, and keyless entry. The tS brings 18-wheels, summer-only tires, Brembo brakes, and sportier suspension.

Notable changes:
Updates for 2019 include a standard 7-inch infotainment system with navigation for the Limited trim, which can be updated-over-the-air via WiFi. To read the full road test, visit www.consumerreports.org/cars/subaru/brz/2020/road-test