

2025 2024 2023 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014



TOP PICKS

These are the 10 cars, SUVs, and trucks that shine brightest in our tests.

BY JEFF S. BARTLETT



BUYING A NEW CAR can be exciting—and overwhelming. There are more than 260 models available today, each with a range of features and specifications to consider. But CR's annual Top Picks can help you make a smart choice.

Each vehicle on our list achieved exceptional results in road-test performance and safety. We also factored in predicted reliability and owner satisfaction. Plus, all Top Picks come standard with low-speed automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection, as well as

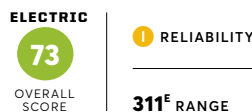
highway-speed AEB—vital features to get on your next car.

We have selected models from popular categories, spanning compact cars to midsize luxury SUVs. This year's group includes four hybrids, three plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), and one electric vehicle.

Subaru and Toyota dominate our list with practical and appealing models. Several of last year's Top Picks earned spots on our list again, but we also welcome newcomers like the Nissan Sentra, at right. Read on to learn why these special 10 models earned our highest honor for 2025.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE

✓ TESLA MODEL Y

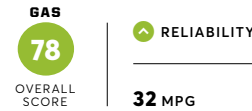


TESLA'S MODEL Y electric SUV shares many virtues with its sibling, the Model 3 sedan: long driving range, thrilling performance, and access to the expansive Tesla Supercharger network. But the Model Y's hatchback body style gives it an edge, with more interior room and cargo space than the 3. Acceleration is otherworldly, with instantaneous response at any speed. Quick steering and taut suspension make the

car feel eager to tackle turns. Combined, these dynamic characteristics make it drive more like a sports car than an SUV. The uncluttered cabin, devoid of a traditional instrument panel, has a modern aesthetic—but accessing common features like audio and climate controls through the large central screen is distracting, as are the steering wheel controls. Overall, though, this green machine is both practical and entertaining.

SMALL CAR

✓ NISSAN SENTRA

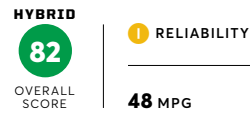


THE SENTRA is an exceptional value. It comes with more standard active safety features than some higher-priced rivals and earned a strong road-test score for its comfortable ride, nimble handling, great fuel economy, and relatively roomy cabin. The controls are intuitive—infotainment and climate

interfaces are models of simplicity. Nissan also now includes three free oil changes during the first two years of ownership. Altogether, the Sentra is proof that you can still find a good all-around new car for under \$25,000. If you want premium touches like leather upholstery, numerous upgrades are available.

MIDSIZE CAR

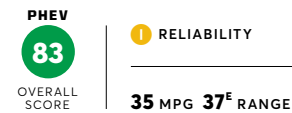
✓ TOYOTA CAMRY



TOYOTA REDESIGNED the Camry for 2025. Improvements throughout made this popular, efficient sedan an obvious choice to return to our Top Picks list. It remains comfortable, practical, and user-friendly, and has the brand's latest infotainment system and tasteful, soft-touch interior surfaces. The Camry is now offered solely as a hybrid, and based on its performance in our tests, that's a good thing. It's even more fun to drive, striking a fine balance between sharp handling and a smooth ride. The hybrid powertrain benefits from a 17-hp increase over the last generation, while gaining 1 mpg in our tests, for 48 mpg overall. As an added benefit, all-wheel drive is available on all trims.

LUXURY COMPACT SUV

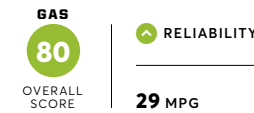
✓ LEXUS NX350H NX450H+



LEXUS PACKS A LOT of goodness into this compact SUV. The well-equipped NX has a cabin that pampers its occupants with premium touches, like plush seats, and a straightforward infotainment system—except for the touchscreen-only climate controls. The best versions are the hybrids. Both have a refined-but-firm ride, quick steering, and capable handling. The NX350h is a traditional hybrid that delivers an impressive 38 mpg overall. For peak efficiency, the NX450h+ plug-in hybrid has a 37-mile electric-only range, and once the battery is depleted, it gets a nice 35 mpg on gas alone. (Recharge time is about 3 hours using a 240-volt charger.)

SUBCOMPACT SUV

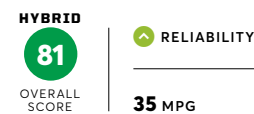
✓ SUBARU CROSSTREK



THE CROSSTREK is designed for both urban touring and wilderness adventure. It offers an excellent ride, good fuel economy, standard all-wheel drive, and a high ground clearance that makes it able to handle rougher roads. It's easy to get into and out of. Both the front and rear seats are comfortable and supportive, and the physical and touchscreen controls are mostly user-friendly. For 2025, only the base trim has the weak 152-hp, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine. All other versions have the peppier 182-hp, 2.5-liter four-cylinder that we prefer. The EyeSight suite of active safety and driver assistance systems is standard on the Crosstrek. BSW and RCTW are available only above the base trim. A 2026 hybrid (non-plug-in) version debuts in the fall with more power and improved fuel economy.

MIDSIZE SUV

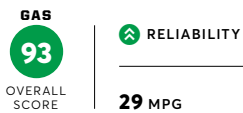
✓ TOYOTA HIGHLANDER HYBRID



THE HIGHLANDER HYBRID is a unicorn among midsize SUVs: It combines three-row capacity with fuel economy that rivals the most efficient compact SUVs. With standard all-wheel drive, the hybrid returned 35 mpg overall in our tests. That's enough to take an epic near-600-mile road trip before refueling. (If most of those miles are on highways, you'll get up to 41 mpg.) Along the way, passengers will enjoy the comfy rear seats and compliant ride, while the driver will appreciate the responsive handling and abundance of active safety features. This repeat Top Picks winner remains a smart, versatile vehicle. (If you need efficiency but more space, the even larger Grand Highlander Hybrid is worth considering.)

COMPACT SUV

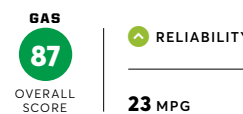
✓ SUBARU FORESTER



LONG A PRACTICAL choice among compact SUVs, the Forester was redesigned for 2025 and is now better than ever. The makeover added refinements throughout the cabin, without straying from the winning formula that has made the Forester a regular among CR's Top Picks. It is still roomier than it appears, with easy access, great visibility, a compliant ride, outstanding fuel economy, and standard all-wheel drive. Plus, it has a quieter cabin and more cargo space than the previous model—both welcome improvements. The four-cylinder engine gained some torque, giving the Forester a bit more oomph, and it increased efficiency by 1 mpg, to 29 mpg overall. (A hybrid version will join the ranks later in the year.)

LUXURY MIDSIZE SUV

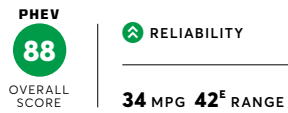
✓ BMW X5/ X5 PHEV



EVERYTHING ABOUT the X5 says "premium." This well-rounded vehicle has an exceptionally quiet and richly finished cabin with supportive seats suitable for daylong trips. Both powerful and efficient, the base X5 delivers swift acceleration (0 to 60 mph in 6 seconds) and returns 23 mpg overall—among the highest fuel economy in its peer group. The plug-in hybrid version heightens this efficiency with an electric-only range of up to 39 miles, bringing real energy cost savings to drivers who routinely travel locally and have convenient access to charging. Once the battery is depleted, the PHEV gets 21 mpg. With either powertrain, the finely tuned suspension provides a composed ride and athletic, confidence-inspiring handling that further sets the engaging X5 apart from its luxury rivals.

FUEL-EFFICIENT SUV

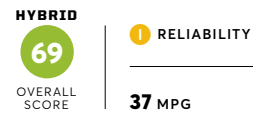
✓ TOYOTA RAV4 PHEV



THIS COMPACT PLUG-IN hybrid SUV (formerly known as Prime) is the best version of Toyota's popular RAV4. It's a great solution for drivers who like performance—with a lively 302 hp, this model moves swiftly from 0 to 60 mph in just 6.3 seconds—and efficiency. Its key trick is that the rechargeable battery has a significant electric range of up to 42 miles. It takes just 2.5 hours to replenish the battery via a 240-volt home charging system, or 12 hours with a simple household 120-volt outlet. As a bonus, we like the PHEV's ride quality better than that of other RAV4 versions and BSW is standard. As good as the RAV4 Hybrid is, the PHEV feels like a higher-caliber vehicle.

SMALL PICKUP

✓ FORD MAVERICK/ MAVERICK HYBRID



THE MAVERICK is a fun, frugal small truck that is equally ready for a run to the hardware store, commuting duty, or a weekend escape with friends. For its size, the interior is quite comfortable, with easy access, simple controls, and decent passenger space. The 250-hp turbocharged four-cylinder is reasonably peppy while returning 23 mpg overall. The 191-hp hybrid version of this truck is the real draw: Our front-wheel-drive model achieved a stunning 37 mpg overall in our tests. (An all-wheel-drive hybrid is available for 2025.) The Maverick even has a refined ride for a truck, and its compact size makes it simple to maneuver. Overall, this freshened pickup is an appealing alternative to many of today's high-priced full-sized models.



10 TOP PICKS

THE CARS, SUVs,

AND TRUCKS THAT

SHINE BRIGHTEST

IN OUR TESTS

NEW-CAR SHOPPERS in 2024 have more than 260 models to choose from. To help you find the right one for you, Consumer Reports selects 10 Top Picks each year, based on road-test performance, predicted reliability, owner satisfaction, and safety. (All Top Picks come standard with automatic emergency braking that works both at low speeds with pedestrian detection and at highway speeds.)

This year's pantheon of automotive excellence includes four hybrids, three plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), and one electric vehicle, confirming that models with fully or partially electrified powertrains can best their gas-only rivals.

Subaru and Toyota made strong showings again this year, with two and four models, respectively. These two brands consistently offer smartly engineered models with simple controls, comfortable cabins, and the infotainment and advanced safety features that matter most.

History and extensive survey analysis show that the reliability of most models improves over the time they are in production, with the last year of each generation typically being the most trouble-free, which adds to the appeal of the 2024 Subaru Forester and Toyota Camry. (Both will be redesigned for 2025.)

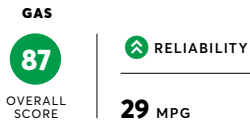
These Subaru and Toyota models, and the Ford Maverick Hybrid, are the only vehicles that were also Top Picks last year. The Tesla Model Y makes its debut on the list (the Model 3 was on it last year), aided by improved reliability. Making its second showing, the BMW X5 takes the top spot for luxury vehicles.

Read on to see which cars, SUVs, and trucks earn our highest honor for 2024.

BY JEFF S. BARTLETT

SUBCOMPACT SUV

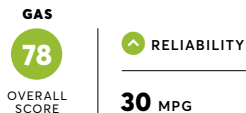
✓ SUBARU CROSSTREK



Redesigned for 2024, the Crosstrek made evolutionary advancements with engine and transmission refinements, a more modern infotainment system, an optional power seat, and an improved EyeSight suite of active safety features that all heighten its appeal. At 29 mpg overall, the Crosstrek boasts the best fuel economy for a nonhybrid SUV with all-wheel drive, but, admittedly, the base 2.0-liter engine is a bit weak. The uplevel 2.5-liter engine is quicker, quieter, and more satisfying. Adding to the experience is the Crosstrek's excellent ride quality and good everyday handling. It is easy to enter, and the cabin is roomy, with supportive seats and good outward visibility. This versatile vehicle is as well-suited to urban errands as it is to weekend adventures.

SMALL CAR

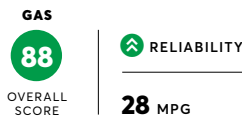
✓ MAZDA3



Mazda proves that small, low-priced cars don't need to be boring. In fact, the Mazda3 sedan and hatchback are highly entertaining to drive, with nimble handling and smooth powertrains. The base engine is the cost-effective choice, yet it packs 191 hp—more than most rivals—and there's a feisty 227-hp turbo-four for drivers seeking more verve. The overall feel, especially on higher trims, is more premium than the price suggests, making the Mazda3 seem a half-class above its mainstream competitors. It offers all-wheel drive with either engine, and BSW and RCTW are standard for 2024. We just wish the controls were less distracting.

COMPACT SUV

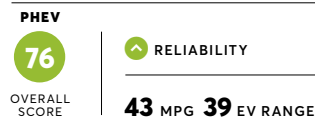
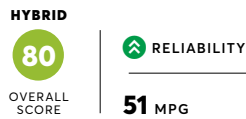
✓ SUBARU FORESTER



In its last year before a redesign, the Forester still stands tall, making its 11th appearance as a Top Pick. The winning formula includes a boxy design that maximizes interior space and grants unrivaled visibility. Access is a cinch, thanks to large doors and an elevated ride height. The seats are comfortable, room is generous, and the squared-off cargo space is copious. The Forester is among the best-riding models in its class, and its handling is responsive and secure. This is a well-rounded small SUV that really delivers, making it easy to recommend year after year.

HYBRID/PHEV CAR

✓ TOYOTA PRIUS/ PRIUS PRIME

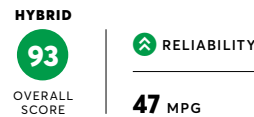


The latest Prius was treated to a glow-up, bringing much sportier styling and 75 more hp than its predecessor had. The result is a sensible car that is as efficient as it was before, while going from 0 to 60 mph a significant 2.6 seconds more quickly, even with the addition of all-wheel drive. Plus, it is cooler-looking and more engaging to drive after the makeover, though some comfort elements, such as space and ride, aren't equal to the previous incarnation's, and it's much more difficult to see out of. The Prius Prime plug-in hybrid provides 39 electric-only miles, ideal for most daily chores. Once the battery is depleted, the Prime returns 43 mpg overall. Having two powertrain choices with this unique, and striking, car doubles its appeal.



MIDSIZED CAR

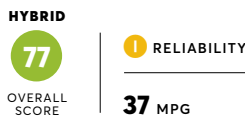
✓ TOYOTA CAMRY HYBRID



The Camry Hybrid delivers amazing fuel economy in a comfortable package, yet it's priced like some smaller cars that are also less efficient. It stands out for its unique and satisfying combination of virtues, as reflected in its sky-high 94-point road-test score. But it is the stellar reliability and efficiency that are the main draws. The Camry Hybrid returned 47 mpg overall in our fuel economy tests, with 53 mpg on our highway test, making it highly cost-effective for commuting, and—with a 610-mile range per tank—road-tripping. This fuel-saving feat is performed with a 208-hp hybrid powertrain that is smoother, quieter, more responsive, and a hint quicker than the base four-cylinder.

SMALL PICKUP

✓ FORD MAVERICK/ MAVERICK HYBRID



The Maverick's civilized ride, maneuverability, simple step-in access, fuel economy, and low price distinguish it among trucks. The crew-cab interior is roomy and practical, with good leg- and headroom in front and back for such a small vehicle. The controls are easy to use, and convenient spots for storage are placed throughout. The 191-hp hybrid stands out for its terrific fuel efficiency and added refinement. The Maverick is a high-value offering that puts the "fun" in functional.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE

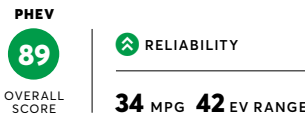
✓ TESLA MODEL Y



The Model Y tops the electric car platform shared with the Model 3; its SUV-like body provides more passenger and cargo space than the sedan does. It makes going electric easy, thanks to its appealing midsize packaging, long driving range, and robust Supercharger compatibility, allowing rapid recharging across a vast charging network. The Model Y is stunningly quick in Long Range and Performance trims, going from 0 to 60 mph in under 5 seconds. Plus, it handles like a sports car, with responsive steering and minimal body roll in turns. Features are added and enhanced through over-the-air upgrades, so this already good car can get even better over time.

PLUG-IN HYBRID SUV

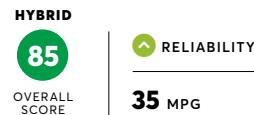
✓ TOYOTA RAV4 PRIME



The immensely popular RAV4 is available with a regular four-cylinder engine and an efficient hybrid powertrain, but the RAV4 Prime plug-in hybrid takes efficiency to even greater heights. It boasts 302 hp, enabling the small SUV to scoot from 0 to 60 mph in a scant 6.3 seconds—2 seconds quicker than the gas-only version. An unusually long 42-mile electric-only range means owners can minimize their use of the gasoline engine. When the battery is depleted, the RAV4 Prime still delivers 34 mpg overall—slightly less than the 37 mpg of the hybrid version. Frisky and frugal, the Prime also rides better and is quieter than the other versions, making it a more premium experience all around.

MIDSIZED SUV

✓ TOYOTA HIGHLANDER HYBRID

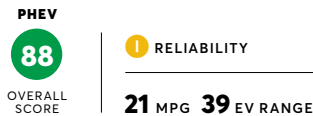
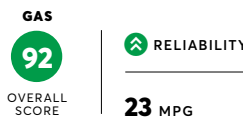


The Highlander is a comfortable midsize SUV, with a compliant ride, accommodating seats, thoughtful cabin

conveniences, abundant active safety features, and commendable predicted reliability. But it really excels at fuel efficiency, with its 243-hp hybrid powertrain. No other three-row SUV achieves 30 mpg overall in our tests, yet the Highlander Hybrid knocks it out of the park with 35 mpg—and all-wheel drive. On the highway, it gets 41 mpg. With a full tank it has 590 miles of range. The hybrid adds about \$1,500 to the gas-only version, with a quick payoff in fuel savings.

LUXURY SUV

✓ BMW X5/X5 PHEV



Traveling in the X5 is a luxury experience: Its whisper-quiet cabin is lavished with leather and wood, finished with cushioned surfaces, and fitted with coddling front seats. The balanced suspension provides a supple ride and composed handling that holds its own on curvy roads. The turbo-six delivers quick acceleration, but the plug-in hybrid version is the real ace. It also uses a turbo inline-six, but it's teamed with an integrated electric motor and a large-enough battery for robust electric propulsion. Exquisite in almost every detail, the X5 sets a high standard.



THE 10 VEHICLES on these pages were selected from more than 200 tested models as the best of the best for 2023. Each represents a key vehicle segment and shines for its combination of road-test performance, reliability, owner satisfaction, and safety, garnering a high-enough Overall Score to earn a coveted CR recommendation.

All Top Picks must come standard with key safety features, including automatic emergency braking (AEB) that operates at highway speed and includes pedestrian detection.

Simply put: These are the vehicles that our expert staff would enthusiastically recommend to family and friends.

It's no surprise that Toyotas, which have historically featured prominently on our list, are again

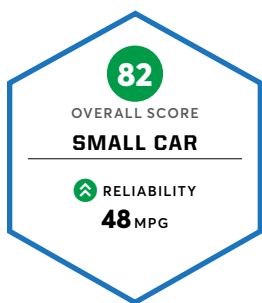
well represented: They're known for having good all-around performance, fuel economy, and reliability. Notably absent this year, however, are two perennial picks: the Lexus RX and Toyota Prius. These significantly redesigned models weren't on sale in time to be included, which made room for other impressive models to appear on this year's Top Picks list.

Our Top Picks list is a collection of cars, SUVs, and trucks with standout performance across the board. Our Green Choice designation (indicated by a leaf icon in our ratings) is awarded to gas-powered, hybrid, and electric cars that are in the top 20 percent of all cars on the market for having the cleanest emissions, based on EPA data.

BY JEFF S. BARTLETT

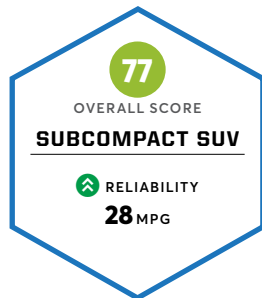
Toyota COROLLA HYBRID

THE COROLLA HYBRID is a rolling master class on what is possible from a lower-priced model. This compact sedan has outstanding fuel economy at 48 mpg overall in CR's tests that approaches the efficiency of the pricier Prius. And it comes standard with the Toyota Safety Sense 3.0 suite of advanced driver assistance features, with lane departure warning (LDW), adaptive cruise control (ACC), and automatic high beams. Blind spot warning (BSW) is optional. New for 2023, the Corolla Hybrid offers all-wheel drive. Moving up through the trim levels brings more niceties that make it a pleasant commuter.



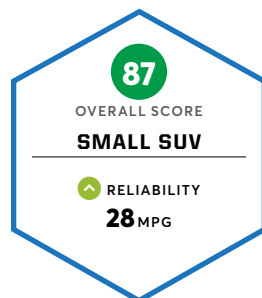
Toyota COROLLA CROSS

THE NAME ANNOUNCES that this is the Corolla of subcompact SUVs, with all the practicality, value, and virtue the familiar moniker implies. The size and traditional boxy shape make the Corolla Cross relatively roomy for the class. It comes with a 169-hp, 2.0-liter four-cylinder paired with a continuously variable transmission (CVT) and choice of front- or all-wheel drive. Acceleration is a bit tepid, but this powertrain returned a solid 28 mpg overall in CR's tests. Most controls are a cinch to use, but the new infotainment interface needs some polish. The back seat also has good headroom and foot space. Factor in a solid roster of standard safety gear and top marks for predicted reliability, and the Corolla Cross is a smart choice.



Subaru FORESTER

THIS IS THE Forester's 10th consecutive appearance as a Top Pick, underscoring how well this small SUV has honed its winning formula over time. Key to its appeal is the basic design, crafted to provide solid crash protection, a spacious cabin, generous cargo area, and terrific outward visibility. The shape also allows for unusually good access, with tall, wide-opening doors and hip-height seats. The controls are simple to use and easy to reach. The 2.5-liter four-cylinder and CVT yield 28 mpg overall—among the best in its class. Handling is responsive, and the ride is supple. Subaru's EyeSight suite of safety features benefits from a wider field of view and updated software for 2023.



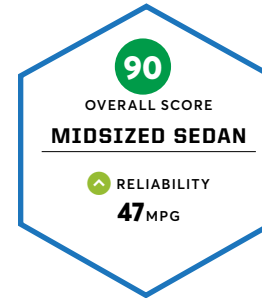
Ford MAVERICK HYBRID

THE MAVERICK COMBINES a low base price with a standard hybrid powertrain and front-wheel drive that delivered 37 mpg overall in our tests. It reminds us of a time when small, basic trucks roamed the land. Today, it's a fun alternative to small SUVs and is ideal for active lifestyles who can put the 4.5-foot-long bed to work. Access to the cabin is easy, thanks to large doors and a low floor, and it's relatively roomy, with good space front and back. The controls are simple, and there are numerous interior storage nooks. The ride is civilized for a truck, and the competent handling shames beefier, traditional pickups. For the price, you'd be hard-pressed to find something that is as versatile, efficient, and smile-inducing as the Maverick Hybrid.



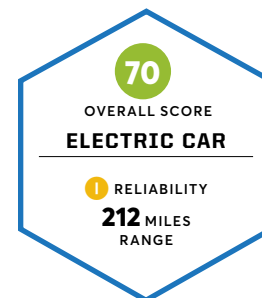
Toyota CAMRY HYBRID

THE NAME "CAMRY" has become synonymous with comfort, convenience, reliability, and value for good reason: Every version delivers on those key virtues. The Camry is available in many flavors, with different powertrains, trim levels, and even all-wheel drive. But the most compelling version remains the Hybrid. It offers the comfortable ride, athletic handling, accommodating seats, and simple controls found in all versions, plus it boasts terrific fuel economy. The Camry Hybrid returned a stunning 47 mpg overall in our tests, which is truly impressive for a midsize sedan. It comes with the Toyota Safety Sense 2.5+ suite of advanced driver assistance features, with lane keeping assistance (LKA), LDW, ACC, and other aids.



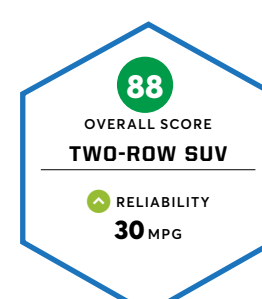
Nissan LEAF

THE LEAF PROVES that not all electric cars command high prices. This swoopy hatchback comes with a 40-kWh battery, an EPA-rated 149-mile range with the standard version, and an attractive sub-\$30,000 price, even before incentives. But the Leaf model to fall for is the 60-kWh "Plus" version. The Plus has an EPA-rated 212-mile range and is quicker, shaving a second off the 0 to 60 mph time. With either configuration, the ride is soft and the cabin is quiet. The driving position is a hint higher than you might expect, giving a good view of the road. BSW, LDW, LKA, and rear cross traffic warning (RCTW) are standard. ProPilot Assist is optional.



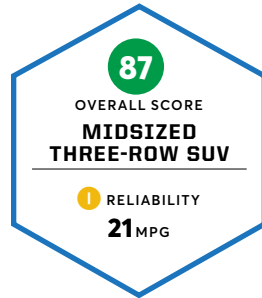
Hyundai SANTA FE HYBRID

THE SANTA FE makes yet another strong case for hybrid powertrains. Here, the hybrid is more powerful, polished, and—of course—efficient than the Santa Fe's standard engine. The hybrid uses a 226-hp, 1.6-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine, making it significantly quicker when merging and passing. For buyers who want to drive farther on electricity, there is a plug-in hybrid that adds 35 hp and has 31 miles of electric-only range. The cabin is roomy, with a spacious, comfortable rear seat, and a generous list of standard features that includes BSW, LKA, and LDW. It has the performance and comfort to satisfy most midsize SUV shoppers.



Kia TELLURIDE

THE TELLURIDE ESTABLISHED itself as the three-row midsize SUV benchmark when it was introduced for 2020, and it has been a Top Pick every year since. The secret is that it simply does everything well. Its large, boxy shape makes for an expansive cabin and good outward visibility. Passengers will appreciate creature comforts such as soft-touch surfaces, attractive trim accents, and generous elbow room. The front seats are wide and comfortable, and the welcoming second and third seating rows are also relatively roomy. The refined, powerful V6 engine is backed by a smooth, responsive eight-speed automatic. Even the ride comfort is good. The 2023 Telluride gets a larger infotainment screen and more driving assistance features.



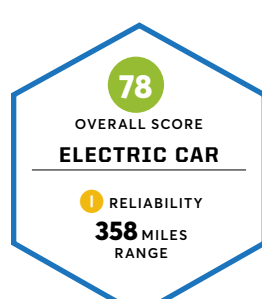
Lexus NX350h

LEXUS HIT A sweet spot with the NX, a small SUV available in four powertrain configurations. Our favorite version is the NX350h, a hybrid that delivers an impressive 38 mpg overall. Its electric motor helps it to launch smoothly and glide along quietly at low speeds. Driving the NX is a treat, thanks to quick steering and a ride that is firm without being harsh. The cabin is upscale, with padded, high-quality surfaces and comfortable, supportive front seats. The rear seat is roomier than the compact exterior dimensions might suggest. Overall, the NX is a delightful luxury SUV that drivers will appreciate for its premium interior quality and practicality. It comes standard with the Lexus Safety System+ 3.0, which includes many active safety features, such as BSW and RCTW.



Tesla MODEL 3

SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION in 2017, the Model 3 continues to make a significant impact in the compact luxury sedan market. This sleek four-door delivers blistering acceleration, with plenty of torque that pushes you deep into the seat as it races ahead from a standstill. Enter a turn, and the Model 3 shows off its tenacious grip and precise steering. The driving experience feels very much like piloting a sports car. The driving range on our Model 3 was 310 miles, but it can be ordered with up to 358 miles of range. That is a significant distance for an EV, especially given the convenience of using the widespread Tesla Supercharger network. Traveling by Tesla is simply easier than with other EVs. The minimalist interior, with its gaugeless dash and giant center screen, adds to its otherworldly ambience.



AUTO
2022
ISSUE

10 TOP PICKS

WHEN YOU'RE seeking the perfect car for you and your family, there's an overwhelming selection to choose from. To help you zero in on the best options, Consumer Reports presents its annual 10 Top Picks: the best cars, SUVs, and trucks our experts recommend without hesitation.

To be in this group, a vehicle must have an Overall Score among the highest in its category, factoring in road tests, predicted reliability, owner satisfaction, and safety. Top Picks also must come

standard in all trims with forward collision warning (FCW) and automatic emergency braking (AEB) with pedestrian detection—safety features we consider critical because they have proved to save lives.

New this year: We are requiring Top Picks to have highway-speed AEB. We also now add 2 points to a vehicle's Overall Score if it has an active driver assistance system that includes an adequate driver monitoring system. The Ford Mustang Mach-E is the only one of our Top Picks this year that received the

added points because the Mach-E's active driver assist system has effective driver monitoring that gives appropriate warnings when the driver looks away from the road for too long.

Several high-scoring vehicles, including the BMW X5 and Hyundai Tucson, were not eligible this year because they don't have highway-speed AEB as standard equipment on all trim levels. This year's Top Picks don't include any large trucks because they lack key safety features on base models or have below-average reliability.

THESE ARE THE BEST of the best. Each car, SUV, and truck here outshines its peers by excelling in our tests and Annual Auto Surveys. Our picks also have key standard active safety features.

BY JEFF S. BARTLETT

500,000

miles are logged each year on cars we purchase for testing, giving us experience on the track and in the real world.

238

vehicles in our new-car ratings were considered in selecting our 10 Top Picks.



SMALL CAR	SUBCOMPACT SUV	SMALL SUV	HYBRID
Nissan SENTRA 77 OVERALL SCORE 32 MPG RELIABILITY	Nissan ROGUE SPORT 77 OVERALL SCORE 26 MPG RELIABILITY	Subaru FORESTER 90 OVERALL SCORE 28 MPG RELIABILITY	Toyota PRIUS 79 OVERALL SCORE 52 MPG RELIABILITY

THE SHARP-LOOKING SENTRA is a low-cost, high-value sedan that feels more premium than its rivals, especially when comparing higher trims. The 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine makes the car pleasant to drive, aided by a rather refined continuously variable transmission. Acceleration is among the best in the class, with power coming on smoothly. Plus, the Sentra has a comfortable ride and nimble handling. The cabin is nicely appointed for the price, with a more upscale look and feel than in most competitors. The infotainment and climate controls are a model of simplicity, and all versions come with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay capabilities. The real clincher is that the comprehensive Safety Shield 360 is standard, packing a lot of key safety features.

GOOD THINGS can indeed come in small packages, as evidenced by the Rogue Sport. It feels more mature and substantial than most of the subcompact SUVs it competes with, thanks to a composed ride and a quiet cabin for the class. Front access is a snap, and the driver is treated to an elevated seat height that aids visibility and offers abundant headroom. The powertrain doesn't live up to the "Sport" moniker, but it gets the job done. A commendable predicted reliability adds to the appeal. And despite the low entry price, the Rogue Sport has a roster of safety equipment that puts pricier models to shame. Beyond FCW and AEB, the Rogue Sport comes with a full suite of safety features, including rear automatic braking, as standard equipment.

MARKING ITS NINTH consecutive Top Picks appearance, the Forester received a light freshening for the 2022 model year, updating its looks while adding a more adventurous Wilderness trim. The secret to the Forester's success has been its efficient, spacious design; strong fuel economy; focus on safety; great road-test performance; and strong reliability history. It is hard to overstate the importance of design. The Forester's upright shape provides greater access, cabin space, and cargo room than its competitors. The tall roof and large windows provide fishbowl-like outward visibility, giving a wide view of the road and surroundings. And responsive handling and a supple ride further enhance the driving experience. The latest EyeSight suite of safety features is standard.

MIDSIZE SEDAN
Honda ACCORD 88 OVERALL SCORE 31 MPG RELIABILITY
HYBRID 87 OVERALL SCORE 47 MPG RELIABILITY

THE ACCORD IS the definitive family sedan, with generous interior space, a pleasant ride, ample power, and impressive efficiency. Three powertrains are available, scaling from thrifty transportation to a prudent alternative to a luxury car, outfitted with leather and all the trimmings. Most impressive is the hybrid, which delivers 47 mpg overall without sacrificing acceleration. The Accord balances ride comfort and handling acumen, making it as delightful to drive as it is to recline in the passenger seat. The cabin is spacious and well-finished, with nice touches, such as soft surfaces and faux wood trim, adding to the ambience. And it comes with all the key safety features, plus adaptive cruise control. For families that choose to buck the SUV trend, this sedan has a lot to offer.



TWO-ROW SUV	MIDSIZE, THREE-ROW SUV	COMPACT PICKUP TRUCK	ELECTRIC VEHICLE
Toyota RAV4 PRIME 88 OVERALL SCORE 34 MPG 42 ELECTRIC RANGE, MILES RELIABILITY	Kia TELLURIDE 97 OVERALL SCORE 21 MPG RELIABILITY	Honda RIDGELINE 82 OVERALL SCORE 20 MPG RELIABILITY	Ford MUSTANG MACH-E 82 OVERALL SCORE 270 RANGE, MILES RELIABILITY

THE RAV4 PRIME transforms the laudable RAV4, endowing it with more power, greater efficiency, a comfortable ride, and a hint more coddling in the cabin. This plug-in hybrid boasts 302 hp—much more than any other mainstream small SUV—and can sprint to 60 mph in 6.3 seconds. Plus, it has an impressive 42 miles of electric-only range, meaning local errands and commutes can be accomplished without firing up the gas engine. On gas only, the RAV4 Prime still gets 34 mpg overall—3 mpg less than a regular RAV4 Hybrid. Other enhancements through-out the vehicle—including a more supple ride and soft-touch interior materials—give the RAV4 Prime a more premium feel than a regular RAV4. Yes, the RAV4 Prime carries a higher price than other RAV4s, but the cost is offset by a federal tax incentive and ongoing savings at the pump.

THE TELLURIDE HAS SET the standard for the popular midsize three-row SUV market since it stormed onto the scene for the 2020 model year. In fact, it has been a Top Pick for each of its three years on the market. The Kia does everything well: Its road-test score of 97 is almost perfect, and it received top ratings for predicted reliability and owner satisfaction. This is a roomy SUV with a comfortable ride; it's easy to access and enjoyable to drive. It uses a V6 engine that delivers strong, linear power via a smooth-shifting eight-speed automatic. The boxy shape ensures plenty of room for the driver, passengers, and cargo. The controls are simple, and storage is abundant. In an age of gimmicks, Kia's straightforward approach is refreshing, and we appreciate the thoughtful details throughout.

THE RIDGELINE IS the Swiss Army knife of pickup trucks. It's engineered more like a modern crossover SUV than a traditional body-on-frame, old-school pickup truck. As a result, the Ridgeline offers rarefied refinement in a pickup body style, with ride, handling, and interior comfort more akin to the Honda Pilot than a typical work truck. It uses a smooth 280-hp V6 engine and a nine-speed automatic, adding to the polished driving experience. Plus, it has a few clever tricks, such as a tailgate that can fold down or swing to the side, allowing easy access to a large, lockable storage box under the bed. This American-made pickup has redefined what a truck can be. It is well-suited for the commuter, family chauffeur, and weekend warrior, as well as the active lifestyle driver who is all those things.

THE MUSTANG MACH-E borrows styling cues from the venerated Mustang muscle car and applies them to a versatile electric crossover with four doors, a convenient hatchback, elevated ride height, and available all-wheel drive. The Mach-E stands out in this emerging category for being enjoyable to drive, with quick acceleration, agile handling, and a well-mannered ride. The Mach-E stable goes from tame pony at 266 hp to wild stallion at 480 hp. Our extended range Mach-E Premium galloped from 0 to 60 mph in 5.3 seconds and has a 270-mile range. Other configurations are even quicker or can extend range to over 300 miles. This well-executed new model catapults Ford into the burgeoning market with its first purpose-built EV that blends being green with character and driving fun.

LUXURY MIDSIZE SUV
Lexus RX 81 OVERALL SCORE 22 MPG RELIABILITY
HYBRID 83 OVERALL SCORE 29 MPG RELIABILITY

THE RX PIONEERED the midsize luxury SUV back in the late 1990s, and it continues to be the exemplar for this popular segment. The winning formula is its blend of comfort, performance, safety, and reliability. These virtues are wrapped in a chiseled body that continues to look modern, despite being on the market for six years with limited design changes. Ongoing refinements, including to the suspension and the infotainment system, have kept the RX line fresh. Behind the striking trapezoidal grille is a 3.5-liter V6 coupled to an eight-speed automatic in the RX 350. This power-train delivers the effortless, quiet performance expected from a premium SUV. The hybrid RX 450h feels quicker, with abundant torque generated by its electric motors, plus it returned 7 more mpg overall in our tests, giving it the fuel economy of a small SUV. It is easy to see why the RX is the most popular Lexus model.

10 TOP PICKS



These are the **most** exceptional new cars on the road today. They all shine in CR's tests and surveys, and each comes standard with key advanced safety features.

BY JEFF S. BARTLETT



EACH YEAR MORE than 250 models compete for the hearts, minds, and driveways of American car shoppers. At

Consumer Reports, we rank the new models we buy and evaluate based on regimented performance tests and survey results from our members. Here, we highlight the best of the best in our annual Top Picks, standouts in popular price categories and types.

These 10 models have earned their

way onto our list through outstanding performance in more than 50 tests at CR's Auto Test Center, as well as having solid marks for reliability and owner satisfaction in our member surveys. All have also scored well in dynamic safety tests, such as our challenging accident maneuver, and, if tested, earned passing grades in crash assessments conducted by the federal government and the insurance industry.

"We put thousands of miles on each test car and evaluate them for how people actually use them," says Jake Fisher, head of auto testing at

Consumer Reports. "That means we care more about how your next car or SUV performs when it comes to safety, comfort, and fuel efficiency than how quickly it can circle a race track."

Each Top Pick has an Overall Score that's among the highest in its category. And it must come standard with forward collision warning (FCW) and automatic emergency braking (AEB) with pedestrian detection—proven features that prevent injuries and save lives by reducing collisions.

Learn more about the Top Picks at [CR.org/cars](https://www.consumerreports.org/cars).



SMALL CAR

Toyota

COROLLA

77

OVERALL SCORE

68

ROAD TEST

33

MPG

UP

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

UP

OWNER SATISFACTION

HYBRID

77

OVERALL SCORE

69

ROAD TEST

48

MPG

You might think that buying a budget-priced car means compromising on performance and comfort. But some inexpensive rides punch above their weight year after year when it comes to value. Case in point: the tried-and-true Corolla, which delivers terrific fuel economy, has more standard safety features than some cars at twice the price, and earns top marks for predicted reliability. The core model is a sedan, powered by a thrifty four-cylinder engine that delivers 33 mpg overall and 45 mpg on the highway. There's also an impressive hybrid version, a Green Choice, that earns 48 mpg overall and 59 mpg on the highway. Even with its extreme efficiency, this Corolla is enjoyable to drive. The steering is well-weighted, there's limited lean when tackling corners, and the ride is among the best in the class. Want something spicier? Choose the sportier XSE trim or the nimble hatchback.

SUBCOMPACT SUV

Mazda

CX-30

75

OVERALL SCORE

64

ROAD TEST

27

MPG

UP

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

UP

OWNER SATISFACTION

The small, urban-friendly CX-30 has a more spirited driving feel than its main rivals, with responsive handling and a firm ride. And it out-accelerates most competitors, even with the base 2.5-liter four-cylinder, although that thrust creates some engine noise. In a class filled with joyless transmissions, the car's conventional six-speed automatic delivers the satisfaction of traditional shifts. A new turbo engine adds even more oomph to this mighty mite. Its main superpower is the winning combination of key standard safety equipment and much-better-than-average predicted reliability.

SMALL SUV

Subaru

FORESTER

89

OVERALL SCORE

90

ROAD TEST

28

MPG

UP

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

UP

OWNER SATISFACTION

The Forester has been a Top Pick for eight straight years. Clearly, Subaru knows what it's doing with small SUVs, and it hasn't deviated much from that winning formula over time. The Forester stands out by being so easy to live with. The tall roofline creates a spacious interior that seems to defy the exterior dimensions. And the large doors make for easy access in and out of the vehicle. These facets combine to create the best outward visibility of any vehicle beyond a bicycle, making it easy to view the road around you. This adds an airy feeling, and it can help with parking. Fuel economy is impressive, especially for an SUV that isn't a diesel or hybrid. And every Forester comes with a standard AWD system and a generous roster of active safety features.

HYBRID

Toyota

PRIUS

80

OVERALL SCORE

75

ROAD TEST

52

MPG

UP

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

UP

OWNER SATISFACTION

For over two decades, the Prius hybrid has set the standard for fuel-efficient cars. There are more competitors than ever now as other automakers race to catch up, but none of them offer a high-efficiency model with such a balanced overall package. Sure, some might chase the 52 mpg overall, but no rival can also replicate the Prius' top marks for reliability and owner satisfaction. Ultimately, that's the highest praise. It speaks volumes that such a mechanically complex car can deliver rock-solid reliability and thrill owners year after year. Recent innovations include an AWD option and the Prius Prime, a nicely outfitted plug-in version that gives 25 miles of electric-only range. If you want to spend less time at the pump and the repair shop, this is the car to buy.

MIDSIZE SEDAN

Toyota

CAMRY

88

OVERALL SCORE

86

ROAD TEST

32

MPG

UP

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

UP

OWNER SATISFACTION

HYBRID

90

OVERALL SCORE

89

ROAD TEST

47

MPG

The Camry fends off would-be challengers with its mix of efficiency, performance, and reliability. This solid choice is newly available with AWD. Looking for extremely reliable family transport on a budget? The base Camry comes with a litany of key safety and driver assistance features. Its four-cylinder engine is energetic and frugal, with 32 mpg overall. For a sportier experience, the SE and XSE bring a more expressive exterior, tauter suspension, and a more athletic character. Want to burn even less fuel? The hybrid gets a stunning 47 mpg overall and has quick acceleration.



SUV/WAGON

Subaru

OUTBACK

86

OVERALL SCORE

91

ROAD TEST

24

MPG

DOWN

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

UP

OWNER SATISFACTION

Is it a wagon or SUV? Who cares? The Outback deftly balances carlike driving manners and efficiency with SUV-like functionality. It's a do-it-all vehicle with broad appeal and hiking-boot styling. It has a comfortable interior, generous passenger space, a roomy cargo section, and clever rails in the roof rack that swing across when needed and stow neatly to the side to become more aerodynamic when not. The Outback has a ride that outshines some luxury models in the way it swallows bumps. All models have ample ground clearance and standard all-wheel drive, making them ready for light off-pavement adventures. The XT adds effortless acceleration for an extra kick in the keister.

MIDSIZE, THREE-ROW SUV

Kia

TELLURIDE

97

OVERALL SCORE

97

ROAD TEST

21

MPG

UP

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

UP

OWNER SATISFACTION

Last year the Telluride became the new benchmark for three-row SUVs thanks to its thoughtful, no-compromise design. Now in its second year on the Top Picks list, it still dominates this popular segment with a stellar road test and Overall Score. And surveys show that owners love it. This isn't a model that thrives on flash. Instead, it stands out by being highly competent in nearly every way. The large, upright design gives it easy access and broad visibility. The cabin is spacious and the controls are simple. The seats are comfortable in each row, with the front and second row being especially accommodating. The powertrain teams a V6 with a conventional eight-speed automatic transmission to create effortless power, which contributes to a quiet interior on a par with an ultra-luxury model. Plus, the ride is supple and handling is secure. The Telluride delivers a lot of SUV for the money.

COMPACT PICKUP TRUCK

Honda

RIDGELINE

80

OVERALL SCORE

83

ROAD TEST

20

MPG

UP

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

UP

OWNER SATISFACTION

Many pickup trucks are proud, hulking brutes. But these commercial-grade monsters are overkill for many suburbanites and weekend warriors. That's where the genius of the Ridgeline comes in. This highly innovative, newly updated truck can haul dirt bikes and tow a small trailer but was designed to excel in the daily commute, with room for family and a clever lined bed that practically does magic tricks. Swing open or fold down the tailgate and you can access a lockable underbed storage box that can double as a cooler. Some versions offer a unique built-in bed sound system for tailgating. The 3.5-liter V6 is a slick and powerful engine. At 20 mpg overall in our tests, the Ridgeline is also the most fuel-efficient truck that's not diesel- or hybrid-powered. And the ride is comfortable and composed.

MIDSIZE SUV

Lexus

RX

80

OVERALL SCORE

77

ROAD TEST

22

MPG

UP

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

UP

OWNER SATISFACTION

HYBRID

83

OVERALL SCORE

80

ROAD TEST

29

MPG

The RX continues to set the standard for the midsize luxury SUV segment, serving up a combination of comfort, performance, safety, and reliability that can't be beat. Everything about the RX is smooth and luxurious, from the plush ride to the hushed cabin and wide, supple seats. The base engine is a silky V6 that packs power, but the real treat is the hybrid. It feels quicker, with more immediate response from the electric motors, and it delivers an impressive 29 mpg overall. For those who crave a bit more élan, there's an F Sport variant with more supportive seats and some added flair. Lexus continues to make upgrades to the RX, even though this generation has been on sale for a few years. The addition of blind spot warning and rear cross traffic warning as standard equipment make it even more desirable. For those who need three rows, there's a slightly longer L version with a small third-row seat.

ELECTRIC CAR

Tesla

MODEL 3

78

OVERALL SCORE

82

ROAD TEST

353

RANGE IN MILES

DOWN

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

UP

OWNER SATISFACTION

The Model 3 delivers an otherworldly driving experience, with punchy acceleration that comes on in a quiet surge. (In our tests, it reached 60 mph in 5.3 seconds—quicker than a Dodge Challenger V8.) This uncanny performance is matched with sharp handling and precise steering befitting a sports sedan. The minimalist interior has a futuristic design aesthetic, with a massive 15-inch touch screen that's used for most controls, but the screen is distracting to use. Innovation abounds, from the keyless access to Tesla's ability to send over-the-air updates that continue to add features well after the car is bought. Another notable Tesla advantage is being able to charge relatively quickly on the go. Being green has never been so much fun.



10 TOP PICKS

These are the most exceptional new cars on the road today. They all shine in CR's tests and surveys, and each comes standard with key advanced safety features.

BY JEFF S. BARTLETT

WE SEE PLENTY of great cars at Consumer Reports' test track. Our Top Picks represent the best of the best. We selected these standouts from hundreds of current models rated by CR and backed by survey data from hundreds of thousands of our members. These cars have some of the highest Overall Scores in their categories, factoring in road tests, predicted reliability, owner satisfaction, and safety.

When selecting Top Picks, we only consider CR-recommended models that come standard with forward collision warning (FCW) and automatic

emergency braking (AEB) with pedestrian detection. This is the first year we've required standard pedestrian detection to be eligible. This feature works with AEB to sense when people are in a car's pathway and automatically brake, if needed. We believe all of these features have the potential to save lives and shouldn't cost extra as part of an options package.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports there were 6,283 pedestrian deaths from traffic crashes in 2018, the most since 1990.

"Studies and our own testing have shown pedestrian detection systems can help curb this tragic trend," says Jake Fisher, senior director of auto testing at Consumer Reports. "We added this requirement to help make this feature commonplace."

CR gives extra points to the Overall Score for models that have FCW, AEB, pedestrian detection, and blind spot warning (BSW) as standard equipment on all the trims. (Top Picks are listed by price range.)

Learn more about the Top Picks at [CR.org/cars](https://www.consumerreports.org/cars).



Lexus RX

MIDSIZE SUV



The Lexus RX pioneered the midsize luxury crossover in the late 1990s, and it continues to set the standard in this popular segment. The winning formula remains the same: a Goldilocks size, smooth power delivery, plentiful amenities, and proven reliability. Starting at about \$45,000, the RX rates high in our testing for ride comfort and noise, besting some more expensive rivals. The tranquil driving experience complements the wide, supportive front seats. We do wish that the infotainment controls were less frustrating. Even so, the Lexus is a top performer and a tremendous value for luxury seekers. The RX comes in different versions, including an extremely efficient 450h hybrid and a three-row RX L. Whichever flavor appeals to your budget and needs, the RX promises a premium, worry-free ownership experience.

Tesla MODEL 3

ELECTRIC CAR



The Model 3 proves that EVs can challenge conventional upscale sedans by offering invigorating performance with a high-tech vibe. It boasts rapid acceleration that's delivered in near silence, with instant passing power available at any speed and enough thrust to push the driver back into the seat. The car's superb handling and quick, precise steering help it feel like a sports car. The Model 3 has excellent visibility and a stark interior dominated by a floating 15-inch touch screen that governs many controls. Its impressive road performance is diminished only by the stiff ride and notable wind noise. But its long range of 250 to 330 miles (depending on the version) and green credentials offset those drawbacks.

Toyota SUPRA

SPORTS CAR



The legendary Supra made a triumphant return this year after a two-decade absence, distinguishing itself as an entertaining thrill ride. This new two-seat sports coupe—co-produced by BMW—excels by providing a balanced but exhilarating performance. The acceleration from its turbocharged six-cylinder engine beats some V8-powered muscle cars, yet the Supra's overall fuel economy is closer to a mild-mannered sedan's. The Supra's sharp steering and responsive handling make the car a treat to drive on our test track. The finessed suspension tuning is a high point that distinguishes the Supra from its rivals, including the BMW Z4. Like many great sports cars, the Supra has compromised outward visibility and a stiff ride. But the overall driving experience is so rich that performance enthusiasts might overlook those issues.

Toyota AVALON

LARGE SEDAN



The Avalon is by far the highest-scoring vehicle in CR's large sedan category, delivering a rare combination of roominess, sophistication, and efficiency. It stacks up well against cars from prestige brands costing \$20,000 more. The model achieved a near-perfect score for ride comfort in CR's testing and has the best predicted reliability in the category. The Avalon has a spacious, richly furnished cabin with wide, supportive front seats and rear seats with generous legroom. The sedan's V6 engine, paired with a slick-shifting eight-speed transmission, provides lush power. Even more attractive, however, is the hybrid version, with fuel efficiency that you'd typically find in a much smaller car; CR measured 42 mpg overall, with 52 mpg on the highway. Like most Toyotas, the Avalon comes standard with a host of advanced safety systems, including pedestrian detection, FCW, BSW, and AEB (highway speed). We consider these to be essential safety systems that should come standard on all models.

Kia TELLURIDE

MIDSIZE, THREE-ROW SUV



An undeniable class leader, the Telluride (shown on page 9) came into the midsize SUV segment like a wrecking ball, outscoring competitors and long-running leaders in the popular three-row SUV category by a significant margin. In fact, its road-test score is among the highest of any vehicle CR has recently tested. And yet this is an aggressively priced model that offers a compelling blend of comfort, features, space, and capability for the money. What makes the Telluride so impressive is how it manages to do both the big and small things well, from its nicely matched V6 engine and automatic transmission to its elegantly simple controls. The front seats are wide and welcoming for a range of body types. And the second-row passenger space is generous, with seats that slide and tilt to open up more access to an inviting third row. This new entry, with its charm and functionality, is a certified hit.



Subaru FORESTER

SMALL SUV



The Subaru Forester tops the white-hot small SUV category for its combination of practical design, high owner satisfaction, and impressive fuel economy. It's one of the better-riding SUVs in the category, impressively absorbing road imperfections. Its handling is responsive, with less body roll and quicker steering around corners than the previous-gen Forester. The boxy design sticks out in a world of sleek SUVs, but the Forester's shape delivers benefits, such as easy access, hip-height seats, and big windows that provide great visibility. Plus, fuel economy is impressive at 28 mpg overall, tying the Honda CR-V for the best mileage of any small SUV that isn't a diesel or hybrid.

Honda RIDGELINE

COMPACT PICKUP TRUCK



The innovative Ridgeline reimagines what a modern pickup truck can be, combining a unique carlike driving experience with clever, useful features. It has a ride that rivals a great sedan's, handling that outshines that of other trucks, and a quiet, coddling cabin. The V6 engine delivers strong, smooth acceleration and gives the Ridgeline better fuel economy than most trucks. The fold-or-swing tailgate makes bed access a cinch, and a large, lockable underbed storage bin adds unique versatility for weekend adventures. Numerous updates for 2020 heighten the Ridgeline's appeal, including a suite of advanced safety systems now standard on every trim. Other trucks may be bolder, even tougher, but none are more sensible, as refined, or easier to live with.

Subaru LEGACY

MIDSIZE SEDAN



As our highest-scoring midsize sedan, the redesigned Legacy sets the benchmark for its class. It's at the top or near the top in most CR ratings categories, distinguishing itself with a strikingly smooth ride and standard all-wheel drive. Although the base engine delivers modest acceleration, Subaru offers an invigorating turbo engine that provides extra power. The Legacy feels like a solid, substantial car. With front seats that offer a wide range of adjustments, and an interior with plenty of headroom, the Legacy accommodates drivers and front- and rear-seat passengers of many body types. The cabin has cushy armrests and a well-designed center console with a padded cutout for the driver's right knee. The wide trunk opening makes loading and unloading quite easy; there are few better sedans in that respect. The closely related Outback wraps the Legacy's virtues in a more versatile, outdoorsy package that's equally desirable.

Toyota PRIUS

HYBRID



PLUG-IN HYBRID



The Prius has been one of our Top Picks 17 times—more than any other model. The vehicle delivered 52 mpg overall in our tests, making it a standard-bearer for hybrid efficiency. It returned 43 mpg in our city driving test and 59 mpg on the highway route. The Prius Prime plug-in version provides even better mileage for drivers who can charge often to make use of its 22.5-mile range on electric-only power. Even so, the Prime gets 50 mpg when operating as a regular hybrid and has a class-leading 590-mile total range. Despite their complex powertrains, these Prius models have an enviable track record for reliability. The cabin has some design quirks, such as the odd center-dash placement of the gauges. But they help the Prius feel like something truly different when you're sitting inside. Ultimately, its sheer sensibility and proven reliability make the Prius a top seller each and every year, and one of CR's perennial favorites.

Toyota COROLLA

SMALL CAR



The Corolla is—hands down—the most new car for your money in the small-car segment. It's roomy for a compact sedan, efficient (33 mpg overall in our testing), and comes with standard advanced safety tech. Each Corolla has FCW, AEB with pedestrian detection, lane departure warning (LDW), lane keeping assistance (LKA), adaptive cruise control (ACC), and automatic high beams, impressive for the price. And the new Corolla has improved its driving dynamics, tackling corners more skillfully than its predecessor thanks to well-weighted steering and limited body lean. That doesn't come at the expense of ride quality; the Corolla soaks up bumps with the best in the class. The car is available in a range of flavors, with basic versions, sporty iterations with an extra 30 hp, a hatchback, and a 48-mpg hybrid.

10 Top Picks

These are the best cars of 2019 based on our track tests, safety evaluations, and mountains of survey data on reliability and owner satisfaction from CR members.
by Jeff S. Bartlett



ALL YEAR LONG, CR experts test nearly 50 new cars and analyze data from our exclusive Auto Survey, which covers about 470,000 vehicles this year. We also look at which key safety features these cars have, as well as their performance in government and industry crash tests. All of that is factored into our Overall Score—the most comprehensive view of vehicle quality available.

But once a year we go further. When we choose our Top Picks, we highlight the attributes that CR members care about most: Cars that deliver superior reliability and satisfaction over the long haul and also push the envelope when it comes to safety, technology, fuel economy, and performance. These are the vehicles that set the standard for the industry.

Speaking of standards, we feel so strongly about the benefits of automatic emergency braking (AEB), a technology that slows or stops a car when a crash is imminent, that we think it should be standard in all new cars. That's why this year, CR only considered vehicles that include AEB as standard equipment for our Top Picks.

“Once a technology has been proven to reduce crashes and injuries, we push the industry to make it available to all car shoppers and not leave it as a pricey option,” says Jake Fisher, senior director of auto testing for Consumer Reports. “Even the least-expensive car on this list has AEB standard. It's time all new cars had it.”



Subaru ASCENT

The three-row Ascent debuted at the top of CR's midsize SUV ratings thanks to its smooth power delivery, comfy ride, and functional interior. It has a turbocharged four-cylinder engine that's energetic in everyday traffic, with plenty of reserve power for passing. Like most Subarus, the Ascent comes standard with all-wheel drive. It especially shines because of its excellent ride: The suspension handles road bumps better than some luxury cars. Its cabin is one of the finest in the segment, with comfortable seats and many soft-touch surfaces, especially on upper-trim versions. There is a handy, kid-friendly third-row seat. The infotainment system, with its clear buttons and large touch screen, is simple to use.

MIDSIZE SUV

96 OVERALL SCORE
93 ROAD TEST
22 MPG

RELIABILITY
OWNER SATISFACTION

Toyota CAMRY HYBRID

The Camry Hybrid is a hyperefficient car that gets 47 mpg overall in our tests, and its hybrid-electric powertrain doesn't compromise the driving experience. The hybrid battery pack doesn't reduce trunk space, either. Plus, this car is a hair quicker from 0 to 60 mph than the regular four-cylinder Camry. (The four-cylinder returns great fuel economy in its own right, at 32 mpg overall, and starts at \$4,305 less.) A comfortable ride and capable handling add to the appeal. The striking, angular center dash houses an infotainment system that now offers Apple CarPlay compatibility (but not Android Auto). Standard safety gear includes pedestrian detection and lane departure warning.

MIDSIZE CAR

88 OVERALL SCORE
89 ROAD TEST
47 MPG

RELIABILITY
OWNER SATISFACTION

Audi A4

The A4 is a thoroughly satisfying sports sedan with precise handling, the latest technology, and undeniable cachet. Its interior is quiet and decked out in high-quality materials. The front seats are comfortable and supportive. The rear seat, however, is a bit tight, which is typical for the class. The optional Virtual Cockpit transforms the instrument panel into a high-tech display that can be reconfigured on the fly to show trip information, audio details, phone tasks, or navigation guidance. The balanced suspension provides secure handling and a taut ride that effectively smooths rough patches in the road. The turbocharged four-cylinder engine has superb response, with plenty of power when needed and a slick-shifting automatic transmission.

COMPACT LUXURY CAR

80 OVERALL SCORE
88 ROAD TEST
27 MPG

RELIABILITY
OWNER SATISFACTION

Toyota YARIS

The Yaris sedan (sold by Toyota but built by Mazda) delivers an impressive degree of quality and a joyful driving experience at an affordable price. The 2019 model gets improvements that include a new XLE trim level that adds upscale touches such as convincing leatherlike upholstery and automatic climate control. The ride is good for the class, and the handling is responsive. The smooth four-cylinder engine is teamed with a quick-shifting six-speed automatic transmission. All told, the Yaris is an energetic and nimble little car in a segment known for cars that feel more like rolling penalty boxes. And the Yaris shows that critical safety equipment needn't be reserved for high-priced vehicles. It comes with a standard low-speed AEB system that can help prevent collisions or at least reduce the severity of an accident.

SUBCOMPACT CAR

65 OVERALL SCORE
60 ROAD TEST
35 MPG

RELIABILITY
OWNER SATISFACTION

Toyota AVALON HYBRID

The redesigned Avalon is a smart, value-driven alternative to luxury sedans such as the Acura TLX and Lexus ES. The hybrid version in particular offers more room, comfort, and fuel efficiency for the money. The spacious, richly furnished cabin has an upscale feel with soft materials, intricate stitching, and other tasteful details. The front seats are wide and supportive, and the rear has generous legroom and available heated seats. The optional hybrid powertrain, with its electric drive, provides immediate power as well as impressive efficiency. The Avalon Hybrid returned 42 mpg overall in CR tests and 52 mpg on the highway—astounding numbers for such a large car. It delivers both nimble handling and a plush ride, a combination that shames direct competitors and many prestige-branded alternatives.

LARGE CAR

98 OVERALL SCORE
93 ROAD TEST
42 MPG

RELIABILITY
OWNER SATISFACTION



Hyundai KONA

The Kona is a fun, new entry in a growing class of subcompact SUVs. It has a snazzy-looking exterior and an inviting interior. The natural step-in height makes it easy for drivers to settle into the comfortable front seats. The cabin has easy-to-use controls and a good, full-featured infotainment system that's compatible with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. Despite its compact proportions, the Kona's smart design creates quite a bit of versatility thanks to its tall liftgate and split rear seats that fold down. Handling is a strong point—limited body lean and quick steering make it a joy to drive. Despite its entry-level pricing, forward collision warning, automatic emergency braking, and lane keeping assist are all standard.

SUBCOMPACT SUV

73 OVERALL SCORE
71 ROAD TEST
26 MPG

RELIABILITY
OWNER SATISFACTION

BMW X5

Redesigned for 2019, the midsize X5 is one of the best SUVs that CR has ever tested. It's difficult to make an SUV both luxury-car comfortable and fun to drive, but here BMW strikes the perfect balance. The turbocharged inline six-cylinder engine is powerful and responsive, helped by its quick-shifting eight-speed automatic transmission. The X5 delivers swift acceleration and fuel economy that's impressive for its class, although it does require premium fuel. The interior has impeccable fit and finish, and lots of rich materials. The iDrive infotainment system is packed with early-adopter, high-tech features—such as the ability for drivers to make changes with the wave of a hand—yet it's still easy to use.

LUXURY SUV

88 OVERALL SCORE
98 ROAD TEST
23 MPG

RELIABILITY
OWNER SATISFACTION

Ford F-150

The F-150 continues to be King of Pickup Mountain, despite tough competition from the recently redesigned Chevrolet Silverado 1500, GMC Sierra 1500, and Ram 1500. The F-150 lineup ranges from basic work trucks to richly appointed trailer haulers, and there are many steps in between. There are five engines offered, and the core two are potent, turbocharged V6s with 10-speed automatic transmissions. There's a wide range of equipment to make driving and connectivity easier, such as WiFi, an easy-to-use infotainment system, and a rearview camera that's specially designed to help drivers line up with their trailer. The 2.7-liter V6 turbo version we tested delivered brisk acceleration, effortless towing ability, and impressive fuel economy. The cabin has generous room for the driver and passengers in the popular crew cab.

FULL-SIZED PICKUP

67 OVERALL SCORE
74 ROAD TEST
19 MPG

RELIABILITY
OWNER SATISFACTION

Toyota PRIUS

The Prius returns to our Top Picks list for a record 16th time. This pioneering hybrid has long been a paragon of efficiency, with the current model achieving 52 mpg overall and a stunning 59 mpg on the highway. But it's more than just thrifty; the Prius is a standout car with a stellar track record for reliability and owner satisfaction. For 2019, a newly available all-wheel-drive option makes this supremely practical car even more appealing. There's decent room in the Prius, and the hatchback adds cargo-toting versatility. Plus, Toyota throws in a full suite of safety tech, including forward collision warning, lane departure warning, and lane keeping assist, as standard equipment.

HYBRID/ELECTRIC CAR

78 OVERALL SCORE
75 ROAD TEST
52 MPG

RELIABILITY
OWNER SATISFACTION

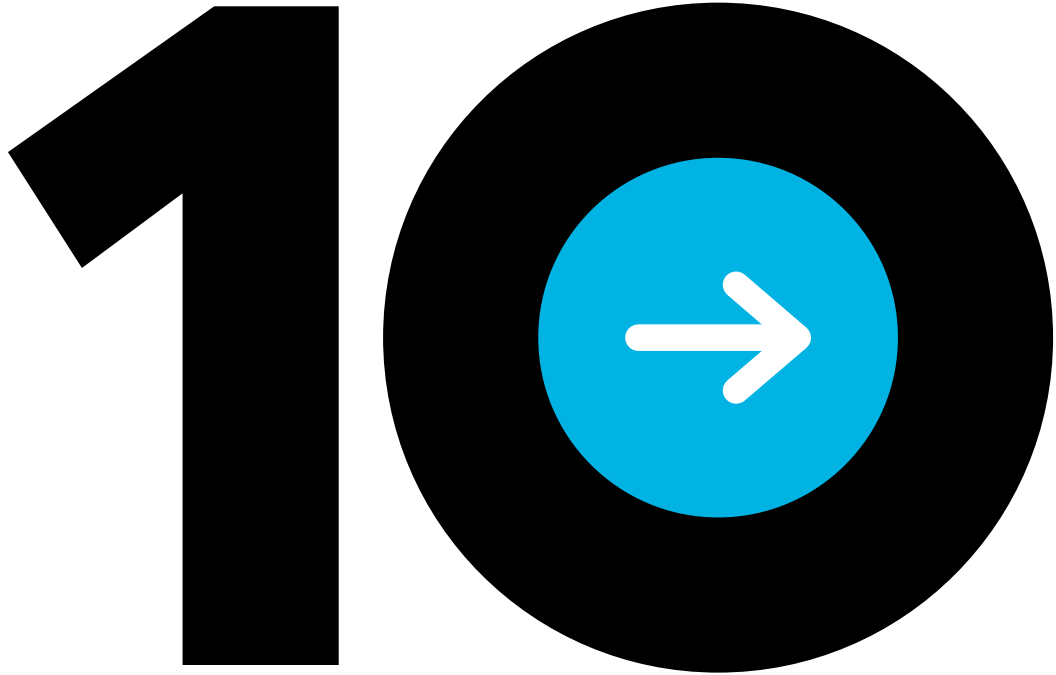
Subaru FORESTER

The Forester is a multitasking, no-nonsense vehicle that has broad appeal. This compact SUV's roomy interior focuses on practicality and functionality. The 2019 redesign doesn't look much different from its predecessor, but the Forester is now a more solid vehicle—quieter, with a more premium feel inside. Its power is admittedly modest, but its fuel economy tops the class. The ride is comfortable, the steering is responsive, and its body doesn't lean too much around corners. The Forester has large doors, making it easy to get in and out, and tall, upright glass all around, providing unrivaled visibility. Inside, there's generous room for passengers and cargo. Bonus: Forward collision warning, lane departure warning, and lane keeping assist come standard.

COMPACT SUV

89 OVERALL SCORE
90 ROAD TEST
28 MPG

RELIABILITY
OWNER SATISFACTION



We've racked up more than 800,000 miles this year evaluating new cars, SUVs, minivans, and trucks. The bar is set high to make this list: Vehicles need to ace our track tests, plus be safe and reliable and score high in owner satisfaction. These are the 10 that excel.

by Jeff S. Bartlett

Top Picks

What It Takes to Be Tops

A MODEL HAS to have an exemplary Overall Score in its category to be a Top Pick. This single number combines road-test performance, reliability, owner satisfaction, and safety. A car that scores high in all four of these key measures is truly extraordinary.

ROAD TEST: This score is based on more than 50 tests and evaluations conducted at our Auto Test Center by our experienced staff.

RELIABILITY: We predict how new cars will likely hold up based on problems reported by subscribers for more than half a million vehicles (in our latest survey).

OWNER SATISFACTION: We rate owner satisfaction based on the percentage of surveyed owners who say they'd definitely buy the same vehicle again.

SAFETY: All recommended cars must perform well in CR's accident-avoidance tests and also provide effective occupant protection in government or insurance industry crash tests (if the vehicle has been tested). Models with standard forward-collision warning and/or automatic emergency braking are given bonus points.

LARGE CAR

Chevrolet

Impala

The Impala continues to be a gem among large cars, providing a driving experience that's more akin to a luxury car. The spacious, quiet cabin is well-dressed with high-quality materials and trim. The controls are refreshingly intuitive

and easy to use, including the feature-rich infotainment system. The roomy, supportive front seats coddle occupants, and the rear seats are generously proportioned. Its smooth ride is a true standout, soaking up bumps like a sponge.

Handling is commendable, as proven in our accident-avoidance maneuver and when confronting corners at our track. We favor the V6 engine for its abundant, smooth power. Those in the market would be wise to consider an Impala.

86
OVERALL SCORE

91
ROAD TEST

22
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

COMPACT CAR

Toyota

Corolla

This practical, fuel-efficient sedan has all the virtues that small-car shoppers seek, backed by its strong reliability track record. Despite its compact proportions, the Corolla has a relatively roomy interior, with a spacious backseat. Handling is secure, and

the ride quality is a cut above for its class. The ho-hum engine with middling power won't excite drivers, but the trade-off is stellar fuel economy of 32 mpg overall. On our highway test circuit, the Corolla achieved 43 mpg. Also very meaningful: This

car comes standard with advanced safety features that include forward-collision warning, pedestrian detection, automatic emergency braking, lane-departure warning, and lane-keeping assist. The Corolla is a smart purchase that won't let you down.

78
OVERALL SCORE

71
ROAD TEST

32
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

COMPACT GREEN CAR

Chevrolet

Bolt

79
OVERALL SCORE

79
ROAD TEST

250
MILE RANGE

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

The Bolt proves that electric cars need not apologize for a lack of driving performance. This distinctive-looking hatchback delivers brisk acceleration and tight handling, plus a 250-mile electric range at a mainstream price (when tax incentives are factored in). This pure electric is built around a 60-kWh battery pack that holds a generous charge, reducing anxiety that you'll run out of power and be stranded. The driver sits high up in the Bolt, with a commanding view on a par with a small SUV. Like most electric cars, the Bolt is strikingly silent, and road and wind noise are minimal. Controls take a little getting used to, and at times the ride can become choppy. All told, GM has performed an impressive feat with the Bolt.

WORSE → BETTER

LUXURY COMPACT SUV

BMW

X3

Redesigned for 2018, the X3 tops its class. This luxury compact SUV combines driving enjoyment, comfort, slick technology, and utility in one appealing package. Its power is smooth and nearly immediate when you press the gas pedal, even with the base turbo four-cylinder engine. (Drivers can step up to the 355-hp M40i for truly exhilarating performance.) Sharp, sporty handling encourages drivers to seek curvy roads. The firm suspension makes you feel safe and confident, and yet the X3 does a good job soaking up ruts and bumps. Because it's extremely quiet, richly appointed, and offers supportive seats and an easy-to-use infotainment system, the X3 is certain to delight those looking for an upscale SUV that is polished and fun to drive.

81
OVERALL SCORE

92
ROAD TEST

24
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

FULL-SIZED PICKUP TRUCK

Ford

F-150

The best-selling vehicle in America is an impressive, innovative workhorse. The F-150 pulls ahead of the pack thanks to its weight-reduction design and turbocharged six-cylinder engine. This strategy delivers a standout 19 mpg overall, quick acceleration, and effortless towing ability from the potent 2.7-liter turbo V6 engine. Clever features abound, from the Sync 3 infotainment system to Pro-Trailer Backup Assist, which simplifies the otherwise tricky task of backing up while towing a trailer. The crew cab features a spacious rear seat and ample room for tools and gear. Ultimately, the F-150 won't offer as smooth a ride as a car or an SUV, but it's an excellent truck.

72
OVERALL SCORE

81
ROAD TEST

19
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

COMPACT SUV

Subaru

Forester

This is a practical, smartly packaged small SUV that prizes fuel economy, room, visibility, and reliability over trendiness or flash. It's easy to get in and out of, there's plenty of passenger room, and it drives well. The standard 2.5-liter engine provides only decent performance

but it offers exceptional fuel efficiency. And the available turbocharged four-cylinder transforms the Forester into a much more sporting machine. Its all-wheel drive comes standard, and it provides tenacious all-weather grip. The ride is comfortable and handling is responsive. Key

safety features, such as forward-collision warning and automatic emergency braking, are available on most trims by getting Subaru's EyeSight package. The Forester is a wise choice that makes a pleasant travel companion, whether you're road-tripping or commuting.

84
OVERALL SCORE

85
ROAD TEST

26
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

MIDSIZE CAR

Toyota

Camry

The Camry has earned its reputation as a competent, well-rounded family sedan. With its recent redesign, Toyota added more styling flair and handling acumen. And Toyota elevated its fuel economy to 32 mpg overall with the base four-cylinder, matching its

smaller Corolla cousin. The hybrid LE version returned an impressive 47 mpg overall in CR tests, almost reaching rarefied Toyota Prius territory. This Camry offers spry handling, an absorbent ride, and a quiet cabin. (The SE and XSE allow buyers to add sportiness

at the expense of quiet and comfort.) Forward-collision warning, automatic emergency braking, and lane-departure warning are standard, and blind-spot detection and rear cross-traffic warning are available.

HYBRID

89
OVERALL SCORE

89
ROAD TEST

47
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

2.5-L 4-CYL.

87
OVERALL SCORE

86
ROAD TEST

32
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

MIDSIZE SUV

Toyota

Highlander

Three-row SUVs have become the vehicle of choice for many families. They provide all-weather traction and roomy interiors without looking like a minivan. The Highlander stands out in this crowd with its good performance, fuel economy, and reliability. It benefits from

Goldilocks sizing: large enough to accommodate eight passengers but small enough for relatively easy parking. The Highlander rides well, and its handling is secure. Recent updates have improved fuel economy and power, adding to the Highlander's appeal. And

advanced safety features are now standard across the lineup. Overall, the Highlander is a rational choice that will appeal to the majority of buyers looking for a well-rounded, highly functional three-row SUV.

HYBRID

87
OVERALL SCORE

85
ROAD TEST

25
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

3.5-L V6

85
OVERALL SCORE

82
ROAD TEST

22
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

MINIVAN

Toyota

Sienna

Minivans are the ultimate solution for moving people and their stuff. In this segment, the Sienna offers the best all-around package. Its long list of pluses includes a comfortable ride and an energetic powertrain that returns respectable fuel economy. And those looking for an all-wheel-drive minivan quickly realize the Sienna is the only option out there. The cabin is spacious, with convenient folding seats and available seating for eight. The interior is nicely furnished, with top versions dressed with upscale materials and trim accents. The fancy top-line Limited versions offer second-row lounge seating, complete with footrests. Its strong reliability track record and abundant standard advanced safety features make the Sienna a savvy choice.

79
OVERALL SCORE

79
ROAD TEST

21
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

LUXURY COMPACT CAR

Audi

A4

The A4 shines by being sporty, luxurious, and polished in a segment populated by superstars. It's very satisfying to drive, with nimble, secure handling helped by its minimal body roll and responsive steering. The controlled ride is on the firm side, but proves steady and absorbent. The powerful turbocharged four-cylinder engine accelerates with gusto, proving ever-eager to make a quick getaway, yet doesn't hurt your wallet at the pump. Slide into the A4's cabin and you're greeted by a high-quality interior. The controls have a precise feel and a clean, modern look. The front seats are firm yet comfy, but the rear seat space is tight. The A4 is an exquisite sedan for discriminating buyers. It comes with standard forward-collision warning and city-speed automatic emergency braking.

85
OVERALL SCORE

88
ROAD TEST

27
MPG

RELIABILITY

OWNER SATISFACTION

2017 Annual Auto Issue

10 Top Picks

The best new cars of 2017 are outstanding all-around performers—shown to be reliable, safe, and satisfying. That means they have scored high in our stringent track tests and extensive owner surveys. They have won our admiration, and we recommend them with confidence.

by Jeff S. Bartlett

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE TOPS

Overall score To be a Top Pick, a model has to have an exemplary Overall Score in its category. This single number consolidates the findings from four key pillars: road-test performance, predicted reliability, owner satisfaction, and safety. A car that bests the competition by these measures is truly extraordinary.

Road Test Performance for each car is rated based on more than 50 evaluations conducted at our 327-acre Auto Test Center, ranging from instrumented track tests to assessments of comfort and convenience while in daily use by our staff.

Reliability We predict how trouble-free new cars will be based on actual problems reported by subscribers in our 2016 auto survey on more than half a million vehicles. Predictions for new or redesigned models depend on the manufacturer's track record or previous generations.

Owner Satisfaction Simply put, a good car should make its owner happy. We rate owner satisfaction based on the percentage of surveyed owners who say that if they had to do it all over again, they would definitely buy the same car. Our latest subscriber survey collected data on more than 300,000 vehicles from model years 2014 and later.

Safety All cars recommended by Consumer Reports must perform satisfactorily in accident-avoidance tests at our track and provide effective occupant protection based on crash tests conducted by the government and/or insurance industry (if tested). We give credit to models that have standard forward-collision warning (FCW) systems or automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems.

Sports Car

Mazda MX-5 Miata

OVERALL MPG 34



The Mazda MX-5 Miata is the embodiment of driving pleasure. Its alchemical formula has been honed since 1990, with the core ingredients consistently being a pliant four-cylinder engine, rear-wheel drive, sharp handling, and light weight. The real magic is in how the machine responds to the driver. The modest power is harnessed to great effect with a slick-shifting manual transmission with closely spaced gear ratios. The Miata truly comes alive on winding roads, with immediate steering response and a handling balance that will make you grin. On top of all that, it gets impressive fuel economy. Fantastically fun and frugal, the Miata is spellbinding.

Large Sedan

Chevrolet Impala

OVERALL MPG 22



The Impala continues to reign as the leading large sedan. Slide behind the wheel and you can see why. Roomy, supportive seats put you in the perfect position to access the intuitive controls. Despite its prodigious size, the Impala's handling is responsive and secure. Road imperfections are effectively absorbed, resulting in a ride reminiscent of a pricier luxury sedan. The rear seat is roomy enough for three adults, and the ample trunk can swallow their bags with ease. Sedan shoppers browsing upmarket choices would be wise to give this smart, competitively priced alternative serious consideration.



Compact Hybrid

Toyota Prius

OVERALL MPG 52



The car that pioneered the hybrid movement and has defined fuel-efficiency for four model generations still stands tall as an innovative green machine. Its fuel economy in our tests was a staggering 52 mpg overall—the highest we've ever recorded in a car that doesn't plug in. Prius also touts excellent reliability, a remarkable accomplishment given the inherent complexity of its hybrid powertrain. It has improved even more with its recent redesign, reducing cabin noise, improving ride comfort, and making handling more responsive. Sweetening the deal, the new Prius comes standard with a comprehensive suite of safety features. Being green has never been so easy or smart.

Compact Car

Chevrolet Cruze

OVERALL MPG 30

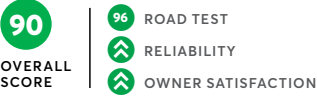


This redesigned sedan and hatchback bests two segment stalwarts, the Honda Civic and the Toyota Corolla, with an Overall Score at the top of the class. The formula is simple: Put the Malibu and Impala in a shrink ray, reducing scale but preserving the commendable driving manners and generous available features. The result is a hushed, smooth-riding sedan that's roomy enough to be a budget-friendly alternative to a midsize car. The polished 153-hp turbocharged four-cylinder engine is lively yet frugal. The Cruze we tested returned a good 30 mpg overall, but look deeper into the data and you find that it achieved 47 mpg on the highway. Given that impressive figure, it might not be worth waiting for the diesel engine.

Luxury SUV

Audi Q7

OVERALL MPG 20

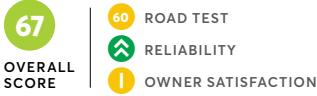


The seven-passenger Q7 is the highest-rated SUV we've recently tested. Sumptuous and pampering, it feels more like a luxury sedan than an SUV. The quiet interior coddles riders, and it's decked out with premium trimmings and road-trip-friendly seats. The infotainment system provides seamless interaction with phone, audio, and other functions. Despite its generous size, the Q7 has genuine agility, with road-hugging chops, a settled ride, and excellent brakes for rapid stops. Sure, it's pricey, but it's also rich in rewards.

Subcompact Car

Toyota Yaris iA

OVERALL MPG 35



Developed by Mazda, launched by Scion, and now marketed as a Toyota, the Yaris iA proves that subcompact cars can delight. A different model from the Toyota Yaris hatchback, the frisky iA sedan stands out in a segment filled with insubstantial models. It feels refined for this entry-level class, with a smooth and willing four-cylinder engine, slick six-speed automatic transmission, and relatively compliant ride. Mazda's sporty DNA shines through the well-tuned steering and eager handling to bring playfulness to this affordable party. A full-featured infotainment system and standard low-speed automatic emergency braking add further appeal, making the Yaris iA a desirable no-excuses budget sedan.

Compact Pickup

Honda Ridgeline

OVERALL MPG 20



Innovation abounds in this suburbia-targeted pickup, proving that trucks can be both refined and versatile. The Ridgeline glides along, more akin to a sedan than its roughneck rivals. It also handles far better than any compact or full-sized pickup, and it shames all nondiesel trucks for fuel economy. The Ridgeline isn't up for big-time towing or off-road adventures, but this smartly designed truck more than makes up for that with other benefits. The lockable in-bed trunk and dual-mode tailgate add to its flexibility. Many truck buyers dream of a large, rugged behemoth, but the Ridgeline excels at the factors most noncommercial drivers with weekend warrior aspirations will appreciate.

Small SUV

Subaru Forester

OVERALL MPG 26



The Subaru Forester sets the standard for small SUVs, combining relatively roomy packaging, fuel efficiency, solid reliability, and easy access. Large windows and a boxy shape maximize room for passengers and gear in sharp contrast to style trends exhibited by competitors that compromise practicality. Big square doors aid access, and the unmatched visibility inspires driving confidence. Secure handling and a supple ride add to the appeal. Performance is decent from the standard 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine, and fuel economy is excellent at 26 mpg overall. And last, safety technology like forward-collision warning and automatic emergency braking is available on all but the base trim level.

Midsize SUV

Toyota Highlander

OVERALL MPG 20

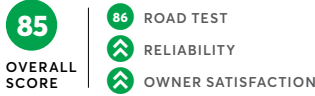


In this competitive segment, midsize SUVs have to do it all well, and none do it better than the Toyota Highlander. Expectations here are high, with buyers looking for family-friendly functionality, all-weather traction, three-row seating, generous cargo space, and the capability of light towing. Throw in good performance, fuel economy, and long-term reliability, and Highlander's appeal is clear. The 2017 update sees 25 more horsepower for the V6 engine, two additional gears, and advanced safety equipment made standard. In other words, this gem of an SUV has all the right moves.

Midsize Sedan

Kia Optima

OVERALL MPG 28



Move over Honda Accord and Toyota Camry: The Kia Optima rocks the midsize sedan segment as a smart alternative to the me-too mainstream. It checks all of the right boxes for family-sedan buyers, with responsive handling, a steady ride and pleasant powertrain, short stopping distances, easy-to-use controls, and a roomy backseat. The Optima is a vehicle that delivers all of these virtues in a stylish, value-laden package that's filled with features usually found on pricier cars. With outstanding reliability and extensive warranty coverage, savvy sedan shoppers should take this recently redesigned car for a test drive.

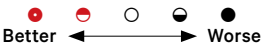
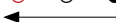
10 Top Picks for 2016

We set a high bar for the cars we rated the best in the U.S. Each leader in its category drives beautifully, boasts solid reliability, did well in crash tests, and makes owners happy.

What It Takes to Be Tops

Performance

To qualify, each model must rank at or near the top of its class in our road-test score.

 Better  Worse

Reliability

Models must have an average or better predicted reliability rating based on problems reported by subscribers for the 740,000 vehicles in our 2015 auto survey.

Owner Satisfaction

We surveyed our subscribers about their happiness level regarding the 230,000 vehicles in their garages. Would they buy their car again?

Safety

Top Picks must perform effectively in crash or rollover tests conducted by the government and insurance industry (if tested).

SUBCOMPACT CAR Honda Fit

OVERALL SCORE
67

ROAD-TEST SCORE: 67
RELIABILITY: ○
OVERALL MPG: 33
PRICE AS TESTED: \$19,025

Thinking about the first new car for yourself or someone in your family? This Honda may just be the perfect fit. It's thrifty with fuel, returning a competitive 33 mpg overall, and yet its nimble handling never gives off a "compromise car" vibe. It has remarkable interior space for such a tiny footprint, with second-row seats that elegantly stow away or flip up to hold more cargo. A rear-view camera is standard. Road noise does boom in, and its rough ride can be tiring on long drives. Still, owner satisfaction is high, and its crash-test scores have improved over its predecessor. For just under \$20,000, the Fit can be an easy-to-park runabout that keeps you smiling.

COMPACT CAR Subaru Impreza

OVERALL SCORE
77-79

ROAD-TEST SCORE: 76-79
RELIABILITY: ●
OVERALL MPG: 26-27
PRICE AS TESTED: \$21,345-\$22,345

Despite its compact size, the car's ride and overall comfort will surprise you. It has expansive window glass, lots of interior space for a car of its size, intuitive controls, a suite of available safety technology, great crash-test results, and an available hatchback version to haul bulky cargo. If you live where there's heavy snowfall, you'll appreciate its superb all-wheel-drive traction. The Impreza is a smart, practical car.

MIDSIZE CAR Toyota Camry

OVERALL SCORE
83-84

ROAD-TEST SCORE: 84-87
RELIABILITY: ●
OVERALL MPG: 26-38
PRICE AS TESTED: \$24,089-\$32,603

Sure, it might seem like vanilla, but vanilla happens to be the best-selling flavor of ice cream. The Camry's no-fuss driving experience—great outward visibility, controls that fall easily to hand, a roomy interior—may not be the most thrilling in its class, but it's far from plain. A quiet cabin, slick powertrains, a comfortable ride, and sound handling make it pleasant and capable. A Hybrid version

delivers excellent fuel economy while remaining reasonably affordable. The solid Camry delivers year after year of outstanding reliability, which when combined with impressive crash-test results, make it a near-perfect sedan.

SMALL SUV Subaru Forester

OVERALL SCORE
83

ROAD-TEST SCORE: 85
RELIABILITY: ●
OVERALL MPG: 26
PRICE AS TESTED: \$27,145

We hear all the time that Subaru is "the official car of New England." But the Forester is good enough to be the small SUV of Everywhere. It's roomy, rides comfortably, and handles unflappably. Its AWD system routed the Toyota RAV4 and Honda CR-V in our snow-driving evaluations. Fuel economy is among class leaders. It also has the best sight lines from the driver's seat of any model on the market. Forward-collision warning and automatic braking aren't standard, but they're available across most of the lineup at affordable prices. Strong IIHS crash-test scores make it a safe cocoon.

LUXURY SUV Lexus RX

OVERALL SCORE
78-81

ROAD-TEST SCORE: 77-80
RELIABILITY: ●
OVERALL MPG: 22-29
PRICE AS TESTED: \$51,630-\$57,565

Lexus created the luxury crossover segment almost 20 years ago, and its dominance hasn't diminished since. Origami styling and its "Predator" grille show that the RX has shifted from being an understated part of the Little League parking lot to a more extroverted design player. But don't let its new edginess confuse the picture. You'll still find a quiet and comfortable cabin, effortless power delivery, a smooth ride, and a tastefully done interior fit and finish. The hybrid version gets an impressive 29 mpg overall. It's not a taut, high-performance machine of the German school; it lacks that razor-crisp handling, steering feedback, and sharp brakes. But what the RX does focus on—coddling well-heeled customers with reliable calmness—it does well.

SPORTS CAR < \$40K Mazda MX-5

OVERALL SCORE
79

ROAD-TEST SCORE: 80
RELIABILITY: ●
OVERALL MPG: 34
PRICE AS TESTED: \$29,905

Nobody packs more fun-per-dollar into a pint-sized package than Mazda. The MX-5 Miata combines lithe, precise handling with a crisp manual stick shift and a zoomy engine—that gets an enviable 34 mpg—to create the perfect car for the enthusiast driver and weekend racer. An easy-to-stow soft top is the clincher. It's reliable, too. With its jumpy, firm suspension, loud cabin, and tight quarters for taller drivers, the Miata isn't a commuter car. But given a sunny day and a winding road, none of that matters. We love this car.

LARGE CAR Chevrolet Impala

OVERALL SCORE
81

ROAD-TEST SCORE: 91
RELIABILITY: ○
OVERALL MPG: 22
PRICE AS TESTED: \$39,110

Long relegated to the inglorious life of airport rental fleets, the newest version of the Impala puts the competition in its rearview mirror. It proves an American automaker knows how to make an outstanding car for the masses. The Impala is dynamic and comfortable, combining a cushy ride with responsive handling, beating some elite luxury sedans at their own game. The controls are refreshingly intuitive, without resorting to overcomplicated interfaces. There's enough cabin space to fit five with plenty of elbow and leg room. Trust us: It's impressively good.

MIDSIZE SUV Kia Sorento

OVERALL SCORE
84

ROAD-TEST SCORE: 84
RELIABILITY: ●
OVERALL MPG: 21
PRICE AS TESTED: \$37,915

This is a great SUV hiding in plain sight. Most midsize crossovers often feel like uninspiring errand runners. But the Sorento offers class-above elegance at mainstream prices. It's a shade smaller than its midsize competitors, but that allows the Sorento to be city-friendly while still offering the space and features of a larger vehicle. The smooth 290-hp V6 is responsive with competitive fuel

economy, and the suspension absorbs the worst bumps and ruts with dignity while still giving you confidence in corners. The interior design is flat-out gorgeous. Well-above-average predicted reliability combines with good crash-test results. There's a new king of the category.

PICKUP TRUCK Ford F-150

OVERALL SCORE
76-77

ROAD-TEST SCORE: 78-80
RELIABILITY: ●
OVERALL MPG: 16-17
PRICE AS TESTED: \$45,750-\$46,755

Is aluminum body construction macho enough for a big truck? You bet. By eschewing traditional steel body panels, Ford created a pickup that weighs less, enabling it to be quick off the line and fuel-efficient. The 2.7-liter turbo V6 has more grunt than truck traditionalists may expect. And it gets 1 mpg better than a comparable Chevy, which adds up over the life of a truck. The cabin is extremely quiet and spacious, with large windows and relatively narrow windshield pillars to aid outward visibility. The intuitive Sync 3 infotainment system is a welcome update from the bogged-down MyFord Touch setup. Top-notch crash-test results and the best predicted reliability of any domestic truck make the F-150 a solid workhorse.

MINIVAN Toyota Sienna

OVERALL SCORE
78-80

ROAD-TEST SCORE: 78-80
RELIABILITY: ●
OVERALL MPG: 19-20
PRICE AS TESTED: \$35,810-\$38,201

Most people don't dream of minivans, but the Sienna is super-reliable transport with all of the modern features an active, connected family would want. Its spacious and multifunctional interior, with available seating for eight, mates well with the Sienna's magic carpet ride and energetic powertrain. Available all-wheel drive removes the excuse for buying a less practical SUV.

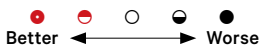
10 TOP PICKS OF 2015

These are the cars that ignite the gasoline in our veins. That we trust. Respect. And love. They also happen to score high in our reliability Ratings and shine in automotive crash tests. So if you corner a Consumer Reports auto expert at a party and ask, “What car should I buy?” these cars will be the answer.

What It Takes to Be a Top Pick

PERFORMANCE Each model must rank at or near the top of its class in our overall road-test score.

RELIABILITY A Top Pick must have an average or better predicted reliability Rating, based on problems reported by subscribers who rated 1.1 million vehicles in Consumer Reports’ latest Annual Auto Survey.

 Better ← → Worse

SAFETY Top Picks must perform effectively if included in crash or rollover tests conducted by the government or insurance industry.

MIDSIZE SEDAN

→ Subaru Legacy

MOST SEDANS are excellent appliances—they do their job, but few people wake up excited to drive them. The Legacy exceeds those drab, rental-car expectations, providing a quiet, comfortable, and roomy package that also has the best ride among its peers. Its 26 mpg might seem lackluster, but that’s with the reassurance of all-wheel drive. Years ago, quirky folks bought Subarus to

be practical and pragmatic. Now it’s simply a great car with mainstream appeal and impact. If you need a wagon for its cargo space, the Legacy’s Outback sibling is an excellent choice as well.

REPORT CARD

Test Score: 89

Reliability: 

Overall MPG: 26

GREEN CAR

→ Toyota Prius

THE PURITY of the Prius’ functional excellence dictates that—although almost at the end of its model cycle—it remains atop our list as the best green car. Sure, there are other hybrids, and even plug-ins, but nothing can touch the sweet-spot combination of the Prius’ affordability, stellar fuel economy, smart packaging, and blue-chip reliability. That’s why it has been a Top Pick for 12 years in a row. Sure, its ride comfort is merely OK, the cornering is

lackluster, and interior bits feel cheap to the touch, but the Prius has transformed an early-adopter technology into a mainstream player. It’s the perfect economical transportation solution. “Just buy a Prius” has become our testers’ cocktail-party refrain.

REPORT CARD

Test Score: 75

Reliability: 

Overall MPG: 44

SMALL SUV

→ Subaru Forester

COMPACT CROSSOVERS are the hottest vehicle segment, and Subaru has nailed the recipe of combining practicality, safety, fuel economy, value, and interior accommodations. Subaru’s merchandising of features transmits into outstanding value for the price. For 26 grand and change, you get all-wheel drive, a moonroof, 17-inch wheels, heated seats, and a power driver’s seat. Its visibility is terrific. The Forester doesn’t just

look like a tank, it’s built like one—with better crash-test results than most of the field. Its one downside—an outdated infotainment center—will be addressed with a running change this spring. This is the vehicle we recommend to our families.

REPORT CARD

Test Score: 86

Reliability: 

Overall MPG: 26

LARGE CAR

→ Chevrolet Impala

FOR DECADES, the Impala nameplate was synonymous with the image of a bad rental car. Make no mistake, this Impala humbles the Toyota Avalon and even the Lexus ES 350. Large and roomy, the Impala has comfortable seats and rides like a true luxury car. The suspension is supple yet responsive, without the body roll that plagues many big cars. For the older demographic this car hopes to attract, the controls are big, intuitive, and easily understood. The only drawback is limited visibility due to its high rear deck and deep parcel shelf. You can get one nicely equipped for \$35,000, with affordable optional forward-collision and lane-departure warning systems. A caveat: Only the V6 version meets our reliability standards.

REPORT CARD

Test Score: 91

Reliability: 

Overall MPG: 22

COMPACT CAR

→ Subaru Impreza

THE IMPREZA’S INTERIOR packaging is outstanding, especially when you put friends (whom you want to remain your friends) in the backseat. Recent improvements have made it quieter inside. The ride is more comfortable than in some pricier cars. It drinks more fuel than its peers, but you’re getting all-wheel drive as a benefit. We don’t like the slackness and drone of most continuously variable transmissions, but with recent improvements Subaru has managed to mask those quirks. Subaru also has finally embraced the need for a contemporary infotainment system. The Impreza is among the pricier compact sedans, but it’s a strong value. A great starter car.

REPORT CARD

Test Score: 79

Reliability: 

Overall MPG: 27

LUXURY CAR

→ Audi A6

QUICK, NIMBLE, AND EFFORTLESS, the A6 pampers you with extravagant surroundings and a plush ride. But at its heart, this Audi remains a driver-focused machine faithful to its core value of crisp handling on a curvy road. The seats are bolstered for hard cornering yet are comfortable on that 6-hour whisper-quiet cruise to wine country—with a trunk that will store your year’s supply of Riesling. The interior’s styling and layout display functional elegance without showy glitz—a fit-and-finish leitmotif that makes fans of Design Within Reach all squishy inside. All functions are within a finger reach of an infotainment system that becomes logical with some practice. Fuel economy is commendable when combined with the security of the Quattro all-wheel drive. Hit five out of six Powerball numbers? Then take your reward.

REPORT CARD

Test Score: 90

Reliability: 

Overall MPG: 22

BEST OVERALL

→ Tesla Model S

FOR ALL OF THE IMPRESSIVE new vehicles released in 2014, none was able to eclipse the innovation, magnificence, and sheer technological arrogance of the Tesla. That’s why it’s our best overall pick for the second consecutive year. Through the course of their life cycles, cars become obsolete quickly as newer models appear with updated gizmos. But with Tesla’s over-the-air software updates, a Model S that came off the line in 2013 has many of the same new features as one built today. Despite the Tesla’s teething problems at launch, our subscriber reports showed average reliability. The Model S is a technological tour de force, a high-performance electric vehicle with usable real-world range, wrapped in a luxury package.

REPORT CARD

Test Score: 99

Reliability: 

Overall MPG*: 84

SPORTS SEDAN

→ Buick Regal

FANS OF GERMAN AUTOBAHN cruisers are breaking out their venom-tipped quill pens as they read this. An American car—an American front-drive car—is one of our Top Picks? Unbelievable! Surprisingly agile, the Regal defies Buick’s brand stereotype. Because it’s an Opel underneath, it has that Teutonic ride control that provides a Europhile driving experience. Close your eyes, and you’ll think you’re driving an Audi—a very good Audi at that. The 259-hp, 2.0-liter turbo is sharply integrated with a six-speed automatic and available all-wheel drive, and it remains responsive across a linear power band. The IntelliLink infotainment system is intuitive. The value-for-money equation is strong. You can even get a Regal with a stick shift to bolster your sport sedan credentials. It may not be as luxurious as the German giants, but a well-equipped Regal delivers a lot for the money.

REPORT CARD

Test Score: 83

Reliability: 

Overall MPG: 24

MIDSIZE SUV

→ Toyota Highlander

TOYOTA HAS FINALLY convinced people that minivans are cool ... just present them as an SUV! In all seriousness, this people and cargo hauler has all the versatility and functionality of a Mom-mobile, but wrapped in a slightly more macho package that grew 3 inches compared with the old model. Although its engines are carry-overs, the redesigned Highlander has a new all-wheel-drive setup and an elegant double-wishbone rear suspension that make it handle more like a car and less like a whale. The interior packaging is cavernous and smart—with neat touches like a wee balcony for your smart phone and a center cubby that will swallow a purse. This is the *real* swagger wagon for the sensible crowd.

REPORT CARD

Test Score: 84

Reliability: 

Overall MPG: 20

MINIVAN

→ Honda Odyssey

WHEN HONDA INTRODUCED its redesigned Odyssey at an autocross course, most journalists asked, “Who cares whether a minivan can giddyap?” No one, until you’re hauling a load of kids and must nonchalantly dodge an 18-wheeler’s shredded tire. The Odyssey

rides and handles better than some family sedans; it’s actually enjoyable to drive. This is the best vehicle Honda makes, a living room on wheels that can take corners with confidence. There’s flexible seating for up to eight crumb crunchers, and an optional

built-in vacuum to clean up after them. It scores well in crash tests. An all-wheel-drive version is still missing from the lineup, and reliability could be better. But it’s still one of the best values on the market.

REPORT CARD

Test Score: 84

Reliability: 

Overall MPG: 21

2014 CARS

Top Picks

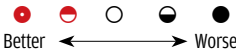
The best models in 10 categories

ALL-AROUND WINNERS. That, in essence, is what our Top Picks are. Each is an exceptional, well-rounded vehicle, chosen from more than 260 we’ve recently tested. They have excelled in our testing, are reliable, and have performed well in independent crash tests. In other words, it’s hard to go wrong with any of them. Our 2014 picks include models from eight automakers; only Honda and Subaru earned more than one spot. And there are four new winners: the slick, electric-powered Tesla

Model S; the impressive Subaru Forester and Hyundai Santa Fe SUVs; and the freshened Ram 1500 pickup truck, which is the first Chrysler model to make the list in 16 years.

What it takes
Top Picks must meet our criteria in three areas: **Test performance.** Each must rank at or near the top of its class in our overall test score. **Reliability.** Each must have an average or better reliability Rating, based on the problems our subscribers reported on 1.1 million vehicles

in our latest Annual Auto Survey conducted by the Consumer Reports National Research Center. **Safety.** Top Picks must perform adequately if included in crash or rollover tests conducted by the government or insurance industry. We show each model’s overall road-test score, predicted-reliability Rating, and the overall fuel economy we measured. Multiple Ratings apply to different versions. Prices reflect the sticker prices when we bought our tested cars.



✓ BEST OVERALL

Tesla Model S

Sure, you can talk about this electric luxury car’s blistering acceleration, razor-sharp handling, compliant ride, and versatile cabin, which can fit a small third-row seat. But that just scratches the surface of this technological tour de force. The Tesla is brimming with innovation. Its massive, easy-to-use 17-inch touch screen controls most functions. And with its totally keyless operation, full Internet access, and ultra-quiet, zero-emission driving experience, the Tesla is a glimpse into a future where cars and computers coexist in seamless harmony. Its 225-mile driving range and 5-hour charges, using Tesla’s special connector, also make it the easiest, most practical, albeit pricey, electric car to live with.

REPORT CARD
Test score: 99
Reliability: ○
Overall mpg: 84*

➤ MIDSIZED SEDAN

Honda Accord (4-cyl.)

The four-cylinder Accord occupies a true sweet spot in today’s auto market. It’s a roomy, well-equipped, and competitively priced sedan that gets a lot right. The four-cylinder Accord squeezes out an impressive 30 mpg overall and 40 on the highway, which is as good as the tiny Honda Fit subcompact. Handling is agile, although the ride isn’t quite as comfortable as that in some competitors. Just avoid the HondaLink infotainment system that comes on EX-L versions; we can’t recommend those versions because of reliability problems.

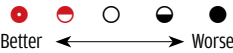
REPORT CARD
Test score: 90
Reliability: ○
Overall mpg: 30

◀ COMPACT CAR

Subaru Impreza

The all-wheel-drive Impreza gives you a lot for its affordable price. Both sedan and hatchback versions are well-rounded packages, with nimble handling and an impressively compliant, absorbent ride that’s among the best in its class. Fuel economy is also commendable for an AWD car. And the Impreza is easy to live with, thanks to a roomy interior, spacious rear seat, simple controls, and refreshingly good visibility. Our only serious gripe is pronounced road noise. But it’s no deal breaker.

REPORT CARD
Test score: 79-82
Reliability: +
Overall mpg: 26-27



➤ GREEN CAR

Toyota Prius

Today’s showrooms have no shortage of hybrids. But none can match the combination of affordability, practicality, and fuel efficiency that the Prius delivers. That’s why it has captured our Green Car pick for the 11th year in a row. Its 44 mpg overall is still the best we’ve measured in any five-passenger, non-plug-in vehicle. And its roomy interior and hatchback versatility make it practical. Skip the slow, noisy Prius C econobox. The 41-mpg Prius V wagon is efficient and roomy, but it did poorly in an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety crash test.

REPORT CARD
Test score: 79
Reliability: ●
Overall mpg: 44

➤ LUXURY CAR

Audi A6

Simply put, the A6 is a joy to drive. Its potent, supercharged V6 engine and super-smooth eight-speed automatic transmission deliver invigorating power. Its agile handling is complemented by a comfortable ride. Inside you’re treated to a sumptuous, impeccably finished, first-class cabin that’s brimming with the latest high-tech features. And the A6 returns a respectable 22 mpg overall, even with all-wheel drive; the diesel-powered TDI delivers 28 mpg. Yes, some controls take getting used to, so you may have extra homework. It’s worth cramming.

REPORT CARD
Test score: 93
Reliability: ○
Overall mpg: 22

➤ SPORTS SEDAN

BMW 328i

The 3 Series has long set the standard for sports sedans. And the current model delivers excellent handling and a high fun-to-drive factor. It’s also roomier, more luxurious, and more fuel-efficient than past models. The 328i’s 2.0-liter, turbocharged four-cylinder engine is quick and thrifty, posting 28 mpg overall, which is best among gas-powered models in its class. Ride comfort and fit and finish are also impressive, although the rear seat is a bit snug. A diesel version, called the 328d, is new for 2014.

REPORT CARD
Test score: 86
Reliability: ○
Overall mpg: 28

◀ SMALL SUV

Subaru Forester

The Forester climbed to the top of its class after its 2014 redesign. With a space-efficient design and large windows and doors, this user-friendly SUV provides the easiest access and best visibility in its category. It has an excellent driving position, simple controls, and one of the roomiest rear seats in the category. Plus the Forester delivers a class-leading 26 mpg overall and a frugal 35 on the highway. OK, the ride is a bit firm and the in-car electronics are behind the curve; there’s still room for improvement.

REPORT CARD
Test score: 88
Reliability: ●
Overall mpg: 26

➤ MIDSIZED SUV

Hyundai Santa Fe

Redesigned for 2013, the seven-passenger Santa Fe is one of the most pleasant and well-rounded SUVs. This spacious vehicle provides a comfortable ride, a quiet interior, a limolike rear seat, and generous cargo area. Yet the Santa Fe doesn’t feel too bulky to drive or park. Its smooth, refined 290-hp V6 engine delivers a decent 20 mpg overall. And the Santa Fe offers a lot of features for the money, including a standard backup camera. But the tiny third-row seat is for kids only.

REPORT CARD
Test score: 83
Reliability: ○
Overall mpg: 20

➤ MINIVAN

Honda Odyssey

The Odyssey is the most complete family vehicle you can buy. It can easily carry up to eight people, and the comfy second- and third-row seats can be configured in myriad ways to accommodate a wide range of cargo- and passenger-carrying needs. Other highlights include easy access, excellent child-seat accommodations, a quiet interior, and plenty of cabin storage. Decent fuel economy helps, too. The Odyssey is also relatively fun to drive for a minivan, with its vigorous V6 engine, responsive handling, and supple ride. A backup camera is standard.

REPORT CARD
Test score: 86
Reliability: ○
Overall mpg: 21

➤ PICKUP TRUCK

Ram 1500

With its 2013 freshening, the Ram is surprisingly refined and inviting. A coil-spring rear suspension—unique for full-sized pickups—makes it the most comfortable-riding truck. And the whisper-quiet cabin makes it feel like a luxury vehicle. Still, the Ram is fully capable of getting its hands dirty when duty calls. The 5.7-liter V8 and new eight-speed automatic transmission deliver effortless power while returning a relatively good 15 mpg overall. The Chevrolet Silverado outscored the Ram in our testing, but its reliability is unknown.

REPORT CARD
Test score: 78
Reliability: ○
Overall mpg: 15