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Jeep's 2014 Compass may be its best ever

By **ROB BEINTEMA**

Metroland Media Group

WheelsTalk.com

The rain wasn't making the photo session any easier but the new 2014 Jeep Compass Limited still looked as pretty as a picture.

An optional colour choice helped set a nice tone— a Deep Cherry Red Crystal Pearl paint job (\$195) that somehow still shimmered under a sky of dreary drizzle.

The classy colour accented a gradual upscale styling evolution that, over the years, has shifted the Compass away from its ugly duckling, big-bumpered beginnings, closer to the sleeker and idealized image of the Grand Cherokee.

The yearly upgrades continue this summer for the 2014 model year with new exterior touches and tweaks.

There's more emphasis on the trademark Jeep face with new plated upper grille trim and billet silver grille textures gleaming on high-end models. This top-of-the-line Limited version also adds sport projector halogen headlamp assemblies with a black inner bezel (or surround) around the headlights along with new chrome fog lamp bezels.

That theme continues in back with "smoked" inner bezels around the taillamps and with a new chrome insert topping the tailgate trim.

The Compass Limited also stands on new 18-inch aluminum wheels that help emphasize a new and more aggressive presence for this compact "sportcute".

And exterior refinements are also reflected inside the Compass Limited.

This as-tested model comes dressed in one of the new interior trim options— Saddle Brown perforated leather seating with accent stitching and matching colour door treatments.

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Jeep labels the new 2014 Compass "the most capable compact SUV", seen here in Limited 4X4 trim, dipped in optional Deep Cherry Red Crystal Pearl clearcoat and featuring a new six-speed

automatic transmission along with a list of added refinements inside and out.

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