

Murano interior has an Infiniti-like appearance

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Inside, the Murano has what Nissan calls a "mobile suite" design theme with a sweeping instrument panel and wide console.

The use of soft touch materials is evident throughout and the cabin has an upscale, Infiniti-like appearance. There are lots of storage spots and the gauges are easy to read with orange lighting in the instrument cluster.

Nissan says the front seats offer enhanced support and from the short periods of time I spent there, I would agree.

The 60/40 fold-flat rear seat has an available power return feature and heated seats are available front and rear.

Power comes in the form of a 265 hp 3.5-litre DOHC V6 engine, mated with Nissan's Xtronic CVT (continuously variable transmission).

In Canada, Nissan's intuitive all-wheel drive system is standard. This system adjusts torque to the wheels, depending upon road conditions, in a tenth of a second.



The interior of the 2010 Nissan Murano has lots of soft-touch materials and wouldn't look out of place in the upscale Infiniti line.

The system provides increased traction in all weather conditions by distributing torque where needed. Vehicle Dynamic Control, Nissan's version of

stability control, and traction control are standard on all models.

The Murano sits on Nissan's D platform, also used on the Altima and

comes with four-wheel independent suspension. It has a cradle type front subframe and multi-link at the rear with stabilizer bars both front and rear to increase stiffness.

The power steering system, similar to the one used on the 370Z and Altima, is speed-sensitive and provides as much assistance as required, while at the same time allowing the driver to feel the road.

The end result is a quiet, smooth ride yet without that floaty feeling you sometimes encounter when the suspension is too soft. The bigger the tire (it comes with 18 or 20-inchers depending on the model) will produce a firmer ride. Hard cornering produces some body roll, but we have to remember this is a crossover, not a sports sedan and in the segment of mid-size crossovers it is among the best handling and performing.

The 265 hp engine is powerful enough to provide all the acceleration needed in most situations.

For 2010, the Murano is available in

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