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8 Pages

2015 Nissan Murano is a game changer once again

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NAPA, CA: The 2015 Nissan Murano is a major step forward made by taking a step back.

Introduced as a 2003 model, it featured concept car styling (quite daring for the time) combined with the best technology and interior appointments and it made Murano an instant segment hit.

Now in its third generation, Murano is seen by Nissan not only as its flagship CUV, but a keystone in a new and aggressive move to march the brand up in every segment.

Nissan claims it is the fastest growing automaker in Canada and the new Murano will be playing a major part in that.

The 2015 Murano goes back to the original formula with styling like nothing else on the road.

It starts with the rear "floating" roofline which uses a blacked out D-pillar to give the illusion the roof is separate from the rear fender line.

Nissan's now signature boomerang front and rear taillights have been exaggerated to make the mid-size body look even bigger than it is.

Another part of Nissan's new styling language is the "V Motion" grille.

Wheels are big 18-inch alloys, but there is an optional 20-inch. Some of the small finishing touches



The third-generation, 2015 Nissan Murano returns to the concept car styling that made the 2003 model such a CUV hit.

are aerodynamic roof rails and chrome exhaust tips.

Inside, Nissan says it tried to create "an engaging social lounge feel" with a large, airy Power Panoramic Moonroof, a revised instrument panel with lower centre console and, most of all, the front and outboard rear Zero Gravity seats that draw inspiration from NASA research.

There are two interior colour combinations, Graphite or Cashmere, augmented by interior ambient lighting.

On the doors and centre controls Nissan has what it calls a "Crystalline" finish which, from the outside looking in, appears to be wood. But on closer examination is a layered plastic. On the Cashmere interior it looked odd to me but was much better on a Graphite version I also

checked out.

The centre instrument cluster is a seven-inch color display, while the centre stack has an eight-inch capacitive touch display featuring standard navigation on all models.

Standard equipment is extensive including: Nissan Intelligent Key with Push Button Ignition, Bluetooth Hands-free Phone System,

See NISSAN, pg. 5

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