

Chevrolet confident Malibu will lead the segment

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way/combined.

A higher output turbo 2.0-litre with 250 hp and 258 lb/ft of torque is mated to a new eight-speed automatic, the first time an eight-speed has been used on a GM front-drive vehicle.

Consumption is rated at 10.6/7.1/9.0L/100 km.

The third variant is the Hybrid with new 1.8-litre turbo and two-motor drive unit derived from the Volt. With an 80-cell, 1.5 kW lithium-ion battery, the Hybrid can reach 88 km/h (55 mph) on electricity alone. Above that speed the engine kicks in automatically.

With a combined 182 hp, the Hybrid's fuel numbers are an estimated 4.9/5.2/5.0L/100 km which, when the final numbers are in, could set the bar for the segment.

The Hybrid is also the first Chevrolet to employ Exhaust Gas Heat Recovery (EGHR), which uses the heat from the exhaust system to warm the engine and cabin.



An interesting feature is called Teen Driver. With the 8.0-in MyLink infotainment system, it lets parents restrict certain vehicle functions to support safer driving and to view their kids' driving statistics such as maximum speed, warning alerts and more.

It also aids engine startup and fuel flow in cold weather.

The first thing you'll notice about the 2016 Malibu, besides

size, is the styling that's reminiscent of the Impala.

There are three clever cue lines, one of which starts just aft of the

headlights and continues to rise along the shoulder line to the rear where it blends in with a sharply descending rear window and short

overhang rear valance.

The hood and cowl are lower than the 2015 model, improving aerodynamics. Further enhancing airflow are active grilled shutters on some models.

Inside, the new Malibu feels as big as the Impala and I'll bet it's close. What I liked was analog main instrumentation coupled with a digital 4.5-in in driver information display. If you include the optional 8.0-in centre stack, that's 12.5-in of screen.

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OnStar's 4G LTE with Wi-Fi hotspot is standard on all models with a three-month/3GB data trial (whichever comes first). Android Auto and Apple CarPlay are also part of the mix.

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