



The Chrysler Town & Country is the upscale sibling of the Dodge Grand Caravan and both are built at the Windsor (Ont.) assembly plant. Chrysler started building minivans in 1983 and the Town & Country has been around since 1987.

Chrysler Town & Country minivan offers versatility with a touch of luxury

By Lorne Drury
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When you have to take four people and their luggage to the airport you get a real appreciation for just how versatile a minivan really is.

A few weeks ago I offered to take friends to the airport in Toronto for their two-week overseas adventure to Holland and France.

Thinking ahead, I booked a Chrysler Town & Country minivan for that week, realizing that even a full-size sedan might be too small for the job, considering the luggage that would have to be transported.

It was the right call.

Minivans have been losing their popular-

ity the last few years with crossovers (SUVs based on car platforms) eating into their sales. But when it comes right down to it, when you have to carry a lot of people and their belongings, there's nothing like a minivan.

That's why millions of families in North America over the past quarter century have had a minivan in their driveways. For trips to the supermarket, the building supply store or taking the kids and their friends to hockey or other sporting events, the minivan can't be beaten.

Chrysler was the first to bring out a minivan in 1983 with the Dodge Caravan and Plymouth Voyager.

A more upscale Chrysler Town &

Country was added to the mix in 1987.

The Voyager is long gone, but the Grand Caravan lives on as the more basic of the two Chrysler-built minivans and still enjoys robust sales.

The Town & Country continues as the higher-end product and combined, the pair accounted for Canadian sales of 6,467 units (Grand Caravan 5,917, Town & Country 550) during the month of April.

That was more than a 30 per cent of the 20,613 cars and trucks sold by Chrysler Canada for the month with the Grand Caravan occupying the Number 2 slot overall on the Canadian vehicle sales chart.

Other manufacturers are abandoning the minivan market altogether and that has been

good news for Chrysler as eight out of 10 minivans sold in the country during March were either the Grand Caravan or Town & Country. Both are built at the Windsor (Ont.) assembly plant that is working three shifts to keep up with demand.

For 2010, the Town & Country is available in two trim levels—Touring and Limited. Touring is priced at \$37,845, while the Limited is \$43,845.

It has only minor changes from 2009 after a complete redesign in 2008. The design is now boxier with a squared-off front end and an angular look that is much different than the more rounded designs earlier in the decade.

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