

Santa Fe navigation system easy to use

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cities all in one sentence.

Where it really excels is on highways where route screens display speed limits and details the next three required manoeuvres.

It is much easier to use and understand than I can explain in words and definitely worth a test drive just to see how it works.

The 2013 Santa Fe has every safety feature you can think of such as seven airbags, but one of the more interesting is the Vehicle Stability Management (VSM) system that incorporates a Rollover Protection System.

What it does is control the ESC (Electronic Stability Control) and the Motor-Driven Power Steering (MDPS) to help the driver maintain control of the vehicle in slippery conditions or during fast cornering. Should the vehicle lose traction, VSM can deliver up to eight Newton-meters of counter-steering effort to help keep it on the road. A Traction Control System (TCS) is also included.

In keeping with the ways the Koreans are dialling in electronics into their cars and trucks is Hyundai's all-new Driver Selectable Steering Mode (DSSM) system.

It has three operating modes (Comfort, Normal and Sport) allowing the driver to configure steering response to road conditions and his/her driving style.

I've tried this a few times now and find Nor-

mal is the best for all-round driving. Sport adds a 10 per cent stiffness to the steering while Comfort relaxes driver input for the long haul.

My AWD Limited came with the topline saddle leather interior adding a near-luxury feel one expects from the Germans in this segment.

There is an icon of the Santa Fe in the centre driver display. At start up, it shows a beam passing from stern to stern as part of a maintenance check to see if everything is functioning. It's like a little bit of Star Trek in your people hauler.

While the new V6 is smaller for 2013, its direct injection makes it more responsive as well as more powerful plus more frugal in operation.

But what owners will like is the way the power and torque are applied by the six-speed, making for transparent gear changes with the steering wheel communicating a feeling of solid grip at the road surface.

Part of this is due to fact the Santa Fe is 178 kg lighter than the Veracruz and advances made in steering and road holding between the two make for a much better handling package in the new one.

This comes to the fore on downtown city streets where girth and sloth are hindrances as any full-size SUV or pickup truck owner will tell you. You can access any underground parking without fear of skinning the roof on a height restriction bar.

Another great feature of the XL Premium is

the full-length sunroof that is great on sunny days but it also gives you a reassuring view of the height bar as you pass underneath it.

The Santa Fe XL comes at a time when Hyundai needs a strong seven-seater in its model portfolio.

By keeping the outer dimensions tight and the inner ones enough for seven, Hyundai's 2013 Santa Fe seems to have found the perfect people mover solution.

Fast facts

Hyundai Santa Fe XL Limited 2013 at a glance:

BODY STYLE: Mid-size six-/seven-passenger CUV

DRIVE METHOD: front-engine, front-/all-wheel-drive

ENGINE: 3.3-litre DOHC gasoline direct injection V6 (290 hp and 252 lb/ft of torque)

CARGO: 383 litres behind third row, 1,159 litres behind middle row, 2,265 litres max cargo room

TOWING CAPACITY: 2,268 kg (5,000 lb) with trailer brake

FUEL ECONOMY: 11.6/7.8/9.9 L/100 km (FWD); 11.7/8.0/10.0 L/100 km (AWD)

PRICE: base FWD \$29,999, Premium AWD \$34,999, Luxury AWD \$39,199, Limited AWD \$42,899, Limited AWD with Saddle Leather \$43,199

WEBSITE: www.hyundaicanada.ca



Bentley launches handbag collection

Bentley Motors has announced the launch of the Bentley Handbag Collection. The Collection transfers the functional luxury of the cars into an accessory that women can cherish.

The Collection features two distinct models – The Barnato and The Continental.

The Barnato is named after Diana Barnato, socialite daughter of Woolf Barnato, one of the original 'Bentley Boys' and chairman of the company.

The Continental is named for one of Bentley's famed model lines, used on successive generations of Grand Tourers since 1952 and the underpinning of the brand's current success since the two-door Continental GT coupe was launched.

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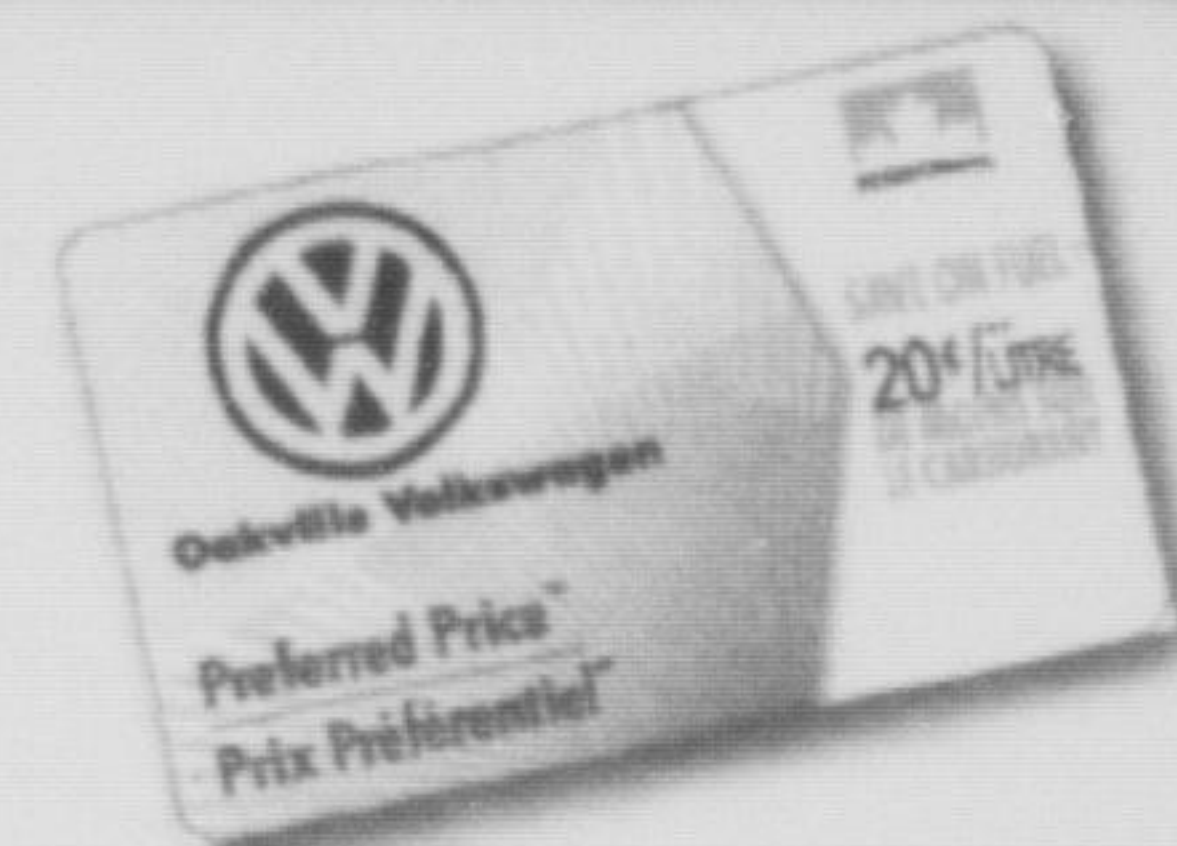
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