



2006 RANGE ROVER SPORT

[ PAGE 23 ]

# WHEELS

An advertising section of The Sun-Tribune

Thursday, Dec. 9, 2004



REDESIGNED JETTA

[ PAGE 22 ]



(ABOVE) It takes just 24 seconds to drop the top in the Audi S4 Cabriolet. The top fits neatly under a hard tonneau cover.

## Audi S4 Cabriolet tops many Christmas wish lists

BY LORNE DRURY

When members of the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) got together in late October, the Audi S4 Cabriolet was among the 65 contenders vying for top honours in the 2005 Canadian Car and Truck of the Year competition.

Slotted in the Convertible class against the likes of the Chevrolet Corvette, Chrysler PT Cruiser Convertible, Mercedes SLK 350, MINI Cooper S Convertible, Saab 9-3 and Toyota Solara, the S4 Cabriolet faced some formidable opposition.

As I write this, I don't know how well it fared in the competition, but I'd be willing to bet that it's high on the list of many of the judges. After spending a week behind the wheel recently, it sure would be at or near the top of my Christmas wish list.

While the AJAC testers had a chance to put the cars through their paces on the track at Shannonville, I didn't have that opportunity with the S4, so I can't honestly tell you how it would handle under hard driving conditions. But then, how many of us do drive our cars on the track anyway?

What I can tell you is it's attractive, powerful and simply a fun car to drive, either in town or on the highway.

While most convertibles are really just fair-weather friends, the S4 Cabriolet is truly a year-round driver.

It comes standard with all-wheel drive, meaning you'll feel confident taking it out of the garage, even on the worst of our winter days here in the Great White North.

And it actually has a back seat so you can fit more than just two people in a pinch. Getting in and out of the back is not the easiest, but my guess would be that most people who buy this car wouldn't use the rear seat on a regular basis anyway. Once your bum is in the rear seat, however, seating is comfortable although a bit cramped.

In the real world, the S4 Cabriolet has more power than you'll ever need to pass or pull into traffic safely from an on-ramp. Even with all this power, the engine hums along smoothly and quietly.

It comes with a 4.2-litre, 340-horsepower V8 that offers acceleration that can be described by one word - wow! In fact, 0-100 km/h times are in the sub-six second range. My tester had a six-speed manual transmission that shifted flawlessly. A

six-speed automatic is also available as an option.

The S4 doesn't have that in-your-face design like many other luxury German roadsters, but it does have a few exterior touches that set it apart from the Audi A4 convertible model.

There are dual exhaust outlets, large air intakes in the front and S4 badging both front and rear. Eighteen-inch, six-spoke forged alloy wheels are surrounded by 235/40 high-performance tires.

Luxury items on the exterior include retractable high pressure headlight washers concealed in the front bumper, heated windshield washer nozzles and Xenon headlights with auto-matic self leveling.

A special S model suspension features stiffer shocks/springs, stronger stabilizer bars in front and rear and a suspension lowered by 30 mm.

Inside, the cabin of the S4 is comfortable, well appointed and the fit and finish is as good as you'll find.

See S4, page 21.

**NO DOWNPAYMENT! NO INTEREST! Plus MAKE NO PAYMENTS TILL 2005!!!**

**NO SECURITY DEPOSIT! NO MILEAGE RESTRICTION!**

<p><b>2005 FOCUS ZX4 SES</b> Loaded, Auto, A/C, Heated Seats, pwr heated mirrors, Traction Control, ABS, tilt, spd control, pwr pl, remote entry, 18" alloys, rear spoiler, fog lamps and more. 5F00162 #1A</p> <p><b>\$249.00*</b> 48 mos.</p>	<p><b>2004 F150 SUPERCREW 4X4 XLT</b> Ltd. Slip, Power Pedals, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Auto, A/C and More. 4FS0426 #2A</p> <p><b>\$429.00*</b> 48 mos.</p>	<p><b>2005 EXPLORER SPORT-TRAC 4X4</b> Adrenaline Model, Loaded, Heated Leather Seats, Cargo Cage, Factory Hard Tonneau Cover, Moonroof, Safety Canopy, Monochromatic Appearance Pkg., Pioneer Ultimate Audio, Remote Power Windows, Locks, Tilt, Speed Control and more. SER0142 #3</p> <p><b>\$479.00*</b> 48 mos.</p>	<p><b>2005 "ALL NEW" FORD FIVE HUNDRED SE</b> Loaded, ABS, Traction Control, Premium Sound, CVT, Trans. &amp; more. 30480 #4</p> <p><b>\$495.00*</b> 24 mos.</p>	<p><b>2005 "ALL NEW" FORD FREESTYLE SE</b> Loaded, ABS, Traction Control, Premium Sound, CVT, Trans., 60/40 Split, 2nd Row &amp; more. 5FE0261 #5</p> <p><b>\$549.00*</b> 24 mos.</p>
---	---	--	--	---

**LEASE ENDING BY 6/30/05? YOU COULD BE DRIVING NEW NOW!**

**Craig Riley's Markville Ford Lincoln SVT**     **21 MAIN STREET, UNIONVILLE**     **Blue Oval Certified**

(KENNEDY ROAD, IN MARKHAM, 1 BLOCK NORTH OF HWY. 407)     **www.markvilleford.com**     **905-474-1350**

\*0% Lease, Unlimited kms. All rebates to Dealer, plus Freight, Taxes, Admin and License. G.L.E.V. as follows: 1A \$9,195; 1B \$11,995; 2A \$19,995; 2B \$19,995; 3 Only \$17,995; 4 \$16,995; 5 \$19,995. O.A.C. Five Hundred (income tax) ask about our other models. Hurry! Sale ends Saturday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m.