

Motoring - Suzuki Swace...



This car has to be the surprise of the last few months, a very pleasant surprise!

The Suzuki Swace is the result of a collaboration between Suzuki and Toyota, based on the Toyota Corolla Hybrid Estate.

Now let's get this nailed right away, this is a great car to drive with superb fuel economy and the surprise? It was so much better than I thought it was going to be.

That's not to say my expectations were low after all it carries a Suzuki badge and I've never been let down before, it was just that prior to the car arriving at Chez Bally I really knew nothing about it, the Swace seemed to have passed me by.

So on a sunny Thursday morning, I suggested to Mrs B that we get in the Swace and drive somewhere for lunch, somewhere we didn't know, so we put a pin in the map and headed for Kelso in the Scottish Borders. The town was very busy with lots of visitors like us looking for, well lunch! Easier said than done "We stop serving lunch at two o'clock and it's now five past" we were told when we entered a hotel in the town square, little wonder there was a large queue outside Greggs. Next time we are thinking of lunch, we will give Kelso a miss!



So back to the Swace, it's available in two trim levels the SZ-T and the SZ-5 coming in at £27,500 and £29,299. There's only one engine available 1.8-litre four cylinder petrol which has a power output of 102ps. It is combined with an electric motor which delivers 53kw and 163 Nm of torque to produce 122hp which gives 0-62mph in 11.1 seconds with a top speed of 112mph.

Now when it comes to the MPG claimed achievable by any manufacturer you sometimes have to wonder how on earth they arrived at that figure, but and it's an important BUT Suzuki claimed combined is 64.2 on the Swace and it really is in fact on our trip to Kelso and back to Dundee we achieved 67.1 mpg very, very impressive! There's no doubt the hybrid system works really well and is very quiet in electric mode, it cruises at speed and handles well on country roads.

The Swace looks stylish, and comes with 16-inch alloy wheels, roof rails, a rear spoiler and privacy glass.



The interior is smart and well equipped and comes with an eight-inch multi-media touchscreen with smartphone connectivity via Apple CarPlay and Android.

In the SZ-T version you get dual-zone automatic air conditioning, heated steering wheel, seven airbags, a rear view parking mirror and pre-collision braking system.

Go for the SZ5 and you add front and rear sensors, blind spot monitoring, rear cross traffic alert and wireless charger.

We found the Swace gave good all round visibility and provided a good comfortable drive, there's enough space for four adults and a very practical boot which can take 596 litres of luggage which increases to 1232 litres with the 60:40 split folding rear seats dropped flat.

Allys says - There are lots of safety features, low emissions, generous equipment and as mentioned great fuel economy so go have a look.

Lorraine says - Loved the exterior, especially the bold front; liked all of it in fact, apart from the colour... I don't do silver!