

4x4 OF THE YEAR

2004 • FULL-SIZE GROUP •

VW TOUAREG V10 TDI

Hotly tipped to win our 4x4 Of The Year contest outright, on the strength of its presumed capabilities, this luxurious, beautifully made, gadget-packed and powerful Volkswagen ultimately couldn't quite match the Range Rover in that all-important area of high image road presence. It's hard to understand why Volkswagen, having developed such a brilliant four-wheel-drive system with Range Rover-emulating height adjustable suspension and traction controls, not to mention the simply superb V10 turbodiesel pumping out a mighty 553lb ft of torque, should choose to install it in a car that looks for all



SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£50,440
Engine cc/bhp:	4921/309
Transmission:	6-speed automatic, dual range permanent 4WD

RATINGS (0-10)

Comfort:	8
Refinement:	8
Off-road:	9
Value:	9
Style:	5
TOTAL:	39

WE LIKED: Keyless entry, gigantic torque
DISLIKED: Fiddly controls

the world like a bloated Passat. Off road it is more than a match for the Range Rover where sheer torque counts, but it lifts a wheel too easily and the VW's traction control isn't as refined as that of the Range Rover so it still doesn't outclass the Brit.

VOLVO XC90 T6 SE

Seen in the context of the 'new wave' of road-biased sports utilities this beefy Volvo probably deserves the accolades it has earned from other journals and consumer bodies, because it is nicely made, has impressive roadholding and is packed with safety features. However, the unnecessarily complex auto-engaging four-wheel-drive system, lacking low range, immediately puts it out of the running against the many more serious rivals in this class. It does certainly have advantages as a family estate, for instance the short-bonnet design allowing plenty of



SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£35,095
Engine cc/bhp:	2982/261
Transmission:	4-speed automatic, auto-engaging 4WD

RATINGS (0-10)

Comfort:	7
Refinement:	7
Off-road:	3
Value:	7
Style:	6
TOTAL:	30

WE LIKED: Superb seating arrangement
DISLIKED: Lack of off-road style

room for all, while being entertained by a world-first installation of a Dolby Prologic II audio system, with the powerful straight-six engine delivering excellent performance. But apart from being big, comfortable, well-equipped and safe as a Volvo, it does little to excite the off-road imagination.