

JCW ALL4 - Intelligent All-Wheel Drive System



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the tailgate – a great feature for picnics!

Powertrain: The MINI Countryman JCW ALL4 is propelled by a turbocharged 2.0L four-cylinder motor, that produces 228 hp and 258 lb-ft of torque. Power is fed to an intelligent all-wheel drive system, via a very quick shifting eight-speed automatic gearbox (as tested - a six-speed manual is standard).

All this means, that the performance is very exciting, as the Countryman JCW can sprint from 0 to 100 km/h in 6.5 seconds, and top out at a very naughty 234 km/h. So, it is a proper performance machine.

Driving Dynamics: Numbers are one thing, how it drives is quite another.

The Countryman, being the largest and heaviest (1,657 kg) of the MINI models, is not the most nimble model in MINI's line-up,

but it copes far better than you might imagine.

On a twisty back road, it does offer thrills, and the acceleration and exhaust pops surely add to the excitement – so -in short- it is fun to drive.

On the down side, thanks to stiffer springs, dampers and anti-roll bars of the JCW model, the ride is a bit harsh, especially at slow speeds, going over speed bumps and driveway entrances. At speed, on the highway, it feels stable and secure, and I enjoyed it on long drives.

Fuel Economy: It is thirstier than I was hoping, averaging just 9.8 L/100 km. Given that it likes to drink premium fuel, running costs are hence high.

Even the most basic Countryman model with the turbo three-cylinder motor had averaged just 9.6 L/100 km, so these models do drink much more than one expects!

Pricing: The Countryman JCW ALL4 has a base price of \$38,890. My very well equipped tester had a sticker price of \$48,730. So, certainly not cheap, by any stretch of the imagination, but a MINI is not an average compact car, it is a prestige brand, a lifestyle, and hence the price tag is somewhat justifiable.

Verdict: The Countryman JCW is a competent performance vehicle, wrapped up in a cool body, with a pleasant interior.

The ride quality could have been better, the fuel economy could have been a lot better, and I hope the product planners at MINI discover what a heated steering wheel is, and starts offering it in their vehicles!

As it currently sits, the Countryman JCW is a good vehicle, and if you love the MINI brand, and need their most practical and powerful model, than this is the one for you!

Whiteoak Ford Lincoln Earns National Award From Ford Of Canada For Superior Customer Satisfaction & Sales

MISSISSAUGA: Whiteoak Ford Lincoln is among an elite group of Ford dealerships to be recognized with the 2017 President's Award Diamond Club by Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. The President's Award, Ford of Canada's highest dealership honour, is presented annually to those dealerships who demonstrate outstanding achievement in sales and customer satisfaction.

Ford of Canada is recognizing dealers across the country for providing a superior customer experience in sales, service and overall dealership experience.

"Winning this award 17 years in a row is a testament to the efforts of the staff," said David Bessuille, general manager, Whiteoak Ford Lincoln. "It

takes everyone working together to be that successful for that long. Our employees deserve all the credit."

The dealership is a proud sponsor of two exciting Mississauga events: the Mississauga Rotary Ribfest and the Southside Shuffle Blues Festival – both of which will be held this summer in Port Credit.

Ford of Canada introduced The President's Award in 2000. Dealers become eligible through excellence in dealership operations and exceptional customer feedback through survey responses related to their sales and service satisfaction and overall dealership experience. This is Whiteoak Ford Lincoln's 17th consecutive year achieving this prestigious award.

Berlin Mulls Forcing Upgrade Of Diesel Cars

BERLIN: The German government is considering forcing automakers to upgrade diesel vehicles that fail to meet emissions standards.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's ministers was discussing the idea at a two-day retreat at the Messerberg mansion house near Berlin. A decision is expected soon.

Some in Merkel's new Cabinet have resisted imposing costly measures and other initiatives on Germany's powerful auto industry, but a recent court ruling allowing cities to impose bans on

heavily polluting diesel cars is forcing the government to act.

German car manufacturers have been embroiled in the scandal over excessive emissions from diesel cars.

Germany's transport minister last Tuesday announced the first of four subsidy programs for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

Andreas Scheuer said the government will spend 20 million euros (\$27 million) to support e-car purchases by companies including Deutsche Post AG.

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