



Subscribe to **The Straits Times Digital**  
and get rewarded with Starbucks® Vouchers\* today!



\*Terms and conditions apply.

Singapore

FIND

The Straits Times  Web  
Powered by rednano.sg



Min: 25 °C Max: 31 °C  
> Weather Details

THE STRAITS TIMES

A SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS WEBSITE

DIGITAL:HTML

July 17, 2010 Saturday

ST701

[JOBS](#)

[CARS](#)

[PROPERTY](#)

[SHOPS](#)

LOG IN | SIGN UP



THE STRAITS TIMES  
BREAKING NEWS

THE STRAITS TIMES  
E-PAPER

THE STRAITS TIMES  
READER

## Life!

HOME > LIFE! > LIFE MOTORING > STORY

Jul 17, 2010

### Super Combi

Skoda's first premium estate set to upset market leaders

By christopher tan, senior correspondent

#### SKODA SUPERB COMBI 1.8TSI

**Price:** \$151,800 with COE

**Engine:** 1,798cc 16-valve inline-4 turbocharged

**Transmission:** Seven-speed dual-clutch with paddle shift

**Power:** 160bhp at 4,500rpm

**Torque:** 250Nm at 1,500-4,500rpm

**0-100kmh:** 8.6 seconds

**Top speed:** 218kmh

**Fuel consumption:** 7.3 litres/100km (city-highway)



Turning in a sterling road show, the Skoda Superb Combi is the wagon for the non-brand conscious. -- ST PHOTO: ASHLEIGH SIM

Think station wagons and Volvo's V models come to mind and, of late, maybe Audi's Avant range. These are the most saleable estates here. They embody functionality, sportiness and that unconventionality that conventional people seem to crave these days.

The Skoda Superb Combi could just be the car to shake up the status quo. Quality-wise, it is on a par with the Vs and Avants, but it is cheaper.

In fact, the Combi is a rare combination of luxury, comfort and practicality. It has an enviable level of fit and finish; its equipment list will make owners of some premium models blush; and it packs a lot of go for a 1.8-litre.

Stylistically, the car is a sure winner too, with fluid lines that convey modernity and dynamism. Some might say its general profile resembles that of another Volkswagen Group product: the Porsche Panamera. Well, perhaps on a hazy night, at a hundred paces, after a pint or two.

The design also speaks of solidity, which the engineers have managed to back up well. The sound of the doors closing, the cabin's excellent noise insulation, the tactile integrity of the switchgear - all beyond reproach.

Skoda has always been known for excellent space packaging and the Combi is no exception. Legroom in the second row is more than adequate, and the cargo area is broad, flat and deep.

There is a lot of usable space here, evidence that form does not always have to be at the expense of function.

Loading and unloading is easy-peasy. The tailgate is motorised (with memory tilt), and a flexible partitioning system keeps small items such as grocery bags and terriers from rolling about when the car is driven enthusiastically (which, I guarantee, will be often).

The rear seats can be folded away to release 1,865 litres of stowage with a depth of a little over 1.9m. A roller parcel shelf - which automatically retracts a little when the tailgate is lifted - and foldable hooks complete the picture.

Like the Superb sedan, the Combi has a neat umbrella holder inside the rear left door. Also found in Rolls-Royces, the device

« Previous

Next »

## Life!

[Life Buzz](#)

[Robbie rejoins Take That](#)

[Rosamund Kwan shopping with tycoon](#)

[Cantonese opens maestro dies](#)

[Life Motoring](#)

[Wild cat](#)

[fast lane](#)

[torque shop](#)

[Super Combi](#)

[At last, just the right fit](#)

[Life Mailbag](#)

[Filial piety has to be earned...](#)

[... Love should be unconditional](#)

[Winner not deserving of UOB prize...](#)

[... Yes, she is](#)

[Kudos to German team](#)

[New soccer team a sham](#)

[Life News](#)

[Bloom Time](#)

[Method to his dancing](#)

[Connery probed over tax fraud](#)

[Stayin' alive](#)

[Some of mum's cooking](#)

[Early ink splashes](#)

[Chinese kid for ChildAid](#)

[A Larsson mystery](#)

[Doing what she loves](#)

[Go ahead quote me](#)

[Test your lip service](#)

[Game on for sports groupies](#)

[Amazed by hospitality](#)

[Growing knowledge](#)

[Flowers in their food](#)

[Star walls](#)

drains water from a wet brolly out of the vehicle.

On the go, the biggish Superb Combi is no slouch. Its 1.8-litre turbo engine, mated to a seven-speed DSG transmission, hauls the car with verve. The nought-to- hundred sprint is accomplished in a respectable 8.6 seconds.

Peak torque of 250Nm arrives at just 1,500rpm, allowing effortless progress in more congested, stop-start situations. When the road opens up, the Combi stretches its legs with aplomb, with revs building up cleanly and uncomplainingly all the way to 5,000rpm.

The car does not give the impression of being rear heavy. It tracks accurately and corners almost neutrally. For its size, its turning circle is surprisingly tight.

At higher speeds, it feels like a properly sorted big car, affording the driver low-fatigue motoring.

The most striking on-board feature is the panoramic sunroof, which comes with a white net screen (motorised) to reduce midday glare without blocking out light completely.


There is dual-zone air-conditioning, with extra vents mounted in B-pillar to maximise comfort in the rear row. Taking centre stage on the fascia is a Volkswagen-style touch-screen monitor that controls a variety of functions, including a user-friendly navigation system.

Reverse camera and beepers help make parking as easy as if you had eyes behind your head. An array of courtesy lights, inside and out, gives the car a premium touch. Other features it shares with premium cars include memory seats, automatic headlights and wipers (with efficient mist-style washers), and cruise control.

The Superb Combi is an incredible package for the price. Not bad for Skoda's maiden attempt at an upmarket estate. The only thing it needs now is a branded badge.

[christan@sph.com.sg](mailto:christan@sph.com.sg)

SHARE   

Text size   Discuss this Email this Print this

Ads by Google

[Try Forex Trading](#)  
Become a Pro-Trader with Academy, ebook and \$50,000 Practice Account.  
[www.askobid.com](http://www.askobid.com)

[Discount Tour Tickets](#)  
Night Safari, Underwater World, Universal Studios and more  
[www.onedollar.com.sg](http://www.onedollar.com.sg)

[Top Malaysia News](#)  
Get Breaking Malaysia News From FT.com - View Articles Now  
FT.com

[Malaysia My Second Home](#)  
Early Retirement in Paradise! Learn More About This Great Program  
[www.12RetireInMalaysia.com](http://www.12RetireInMalaysia.com)

1天减一斤肉,神奇减肥产品  
教你好方法,一周减5斤,月减20斤, 调理肠道,夏天调理减肥新绝招。  
[www.jingxiner.com](http://www.jingxiner.com)

Periwinkle problem

design item

Schindler plant now a museum

Idol 10 tryouts begin

Mind games

'Gibson tapes' in court

**JOB** **CARS** **PROPERTY** **SHOPS**

Search for the Right Job

Advance Search »

**Career Opportunities**

- Accounting Professionals
- Customer Service Professionals
- Engineering Professionals
- IT Professionals
- Marketing Professionals

**Career Resources**

- Tips for job hunters
- Make-up man
- Closing the generation gap
- Help your people grow
- Time to toe the line

[▶ more ...](#)

Click [here](#) to view more job openings in Singapore.



Search



Archive

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

Services

- Take Our Poll
- Site Map
- FAQ
- About Us
- Advertise
- Weather
- Email Us
- SPH
- RSS
- News Alert
- STI Widgets
- Newslink
- NewsPost
- ANN

