



SKODA SIMPLY SUPERB 1.8 (A)

CZECH IT OUT

Those looking for a luxury sedan that doesn't break the bank would do well to look at the all-new Skoda Superb

WHAT'S NEW: If anyone still sniggers at the mention of driving a Skoda, chances are that they are ignorant about cars. Those in the know however, will tell you that this Eastern European carmaker is one of the best-kept automotive secrets to accessing the quality and reliability of a Volkswagen Group product but without the premium VW pricing.

The latest Skoda to benefit from being part of the VW Group is its flagship sedan, the Superb.

The Simply Superb is new from the ground up over the previous generation with an altogether more grown-up styling. Its generous proportions, particularly its rear doors suggest that this is a roomy car that's built for comfort.

Conveniently, the Superb also features a unique dual-stage boot lid that can be made to open conventionally or together with the rear windscreen – effectively transforming it into a hatchback to facilitate loading bulky items. To this end, its rear seats can also be folded to free up even more cargo space.

HOW IT PERFORMS: The Superb is powered by a 160bhp 1.8-litre turbocharged engine that's also found in the base



Handsfree: Park Assist manoeuvres itself automatically

model of the recently-launched VW Passat CC. The Superb is also fitted with the Passat CC's 7-speed DSG transmission.

The Skoda's best party trick is its Park Assist feature that practically reverses into a parallel lot on its own. The driver activates this feature by pressing a button near the gear lever as the car approaches a row of parallel-parked cars. Park Assist then 'searches' for a suitably sized lot as the car is driven past. Once found, a display on the instrument panel will prompt the driver to stop the car and select reverse. At this point, the driver removes his hands from the steering wheel and eases off the brake pedal to allow the car manoeuvre itself into the lot.

It feels strange at first, as the steering wheel twirling by itself until the rear park-

ing sensors beep continuously to indicate that you're close enough to the car behind. The driver's display then prompts to select Drive and move forward to straighten the steering wheel.

Fancy parking aid aside, there is plenty to love about Superb. Thanks to its responsive turbocharged unit, keener drivers will be entertained on their favourite roads. Its electrically assisted steering system however, can feel a little too light and disconnected at times for the driver to feel confident enough to exploit the car's dynamic abilities.

HOW IT STACKS UP: In less extreme applications, the Superb's occupants may well feel that they're riding in a proper luxury sedan thanks to its spacious and well appointed cabin. As well built as they were, Skodas of old still did not impart quite the same sense of quality as their corporate contemporaries from Audi and Volkswagen, but this latest generation model closes the gap convincingly. **HW**

TECH SPECS SKODA SIMPLY SUPERB 1.8 (A)

Price	\$118,800 with COE
Engine	1,798cc in-line 4 16-valve turbocharged
Power	160bhp @ 5,000rpm
Torque	250Nm @ 1,500rpm
Gearbox	7-speed DSG
Top speed	220km/h
0 – 100km/h	8.5 seconds
Fuel Consumption	5.9L/100km
Crash Rating	5 stars (Euro NCAP)

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