

MOTORING MATTERS *by Anthony Goodwin*

THE NEW KIA VENGA – VERSATILE AND PRACTICAL

Kia has not only recently been updating their current range of cars but have been adding new models. The first of these is the Venga; all I could think of when I heard the name was 90's euro pop and the Venga boys! But the Kia Venga is definitely not 90's euro pop, it is a totally modern and innovative car. A compact and stylish exterior combined with an enormously flexible interior make this a very practical family car. Kia have looked at not just the vehicle but external influences such as the global recession, rising fuel prices and Co2 related motoring taxes to aid with the design from scratch of the Kia Venga. This means Kia have managed to get low emissions, great mpg figures and the space, practically and versatility in just four metres of space.

So you would think that looks wise it would follow suit of many of its' competitors, but you would be wrong! To begin with, it does not have a boxy design, it has a sleeker and more racier styling to it. Short overhangs, muscular and pronounced wheel arches and sweeping upward lines from the front to rear mean you can see they are serious about design. This has been very apparent since Peter Schreyer joined Kia. The front of the Venga gets the new Kia family grille and light cluster which houses both headlights and indicators. Space and light are ensured with four panel side windows and on the range topping

Venga 3 you get an all glass two piece sliding panoramic sunroof, which covers almost the entire roof area. It is almost like having a convertible with this sunroof open!

The interior has been designed with tactile finishes and touches you would expect on a far more expensive car. I especially liked the climate control on our test model, it had a clear display and was so easy to use. The steering wheel is family born, with its four spoke design and stereo controls. There is the family stereo system and the central consol is also family born and intuitive to use. Let's talk about space - it may take some time, there's so much - firstly there is a two tier boot great for those that sometimes need a larger boot, but do not need it at all times. Standard volume of boot space is 444 litres, 570 litres with the lower boot and 1253 litres with the seats down. As for putting the rear seats down, they are split folding and slide up to 130mm to allow more passenger accommodation when luggage space is not being used. These rear seats are also fold and dive! This means they seem to disappear into the floor which creates a completely flat load area when the seats are folded down.

Engine wise there are 3 to choose from a 1.4 ltr Manual petrol, 1.6 ltr Auto petrol and 1.4 ltr CRDi diesels. The diesel is one of Kia's EcoDynamics range with its fuel saving and Co2 reducing technologies



glass, all round electric windows and front fog lamps.

Prices start from £11,495 for the 1.4 ltr Petrol in 1 level trim with the Venga 3 1.4 CRDi being £15,395.

such as intelligent stop and go. This system switches off the engine when the car comes to rest and the gearlever is out into neutral, and restarts it the instant the clutch pedal is depressed. All engines meet the new Euro 5 emissions standards. As for figures the 1.4 ltr petrol has Co2 emissions of 147 g/km and 45 mpg, 1.6 ltr Auto 164g/km and 40 mpg with the 1.4 ltr CRDi 117 g/km and 62 mpg.

Standard equipment includes ABS with EBD, ESC (electronic stability control) with Traction Control and brake assist. You also get hill assist control, front electric windows, remote central locking and tinted glass. There are three trim levels to choose from, which along with all other Kia's has taken the number theme. You can either have the Venga 1, 2 or 3. Our test model was the Venga 3 1.4 ltr CRDi so we got climate control, rear privacy

Kia is already half-way to its record-breaking total sales figure of 50,636 in 2009 after just four months of 2010. In April the company delivered 5,228 new cars to motorists throughout the country - a massive 136 per cent increase over the same month last year - and with year-to-date sales of 25,901 Kia was showing a 140 per cent increase in sales compared to 2009. Yaser Shabsogh, Sales Director said: "As Britain wakes up to a new political landscape it is clear that new car buyers are also voting with their wallets by turning to Kia in increasing numbers. "The all-important retail customers are coming to Kia attracted by excellent quality products at sensible prices with the security of a manufacturer seven year warranty. It is obvious that in uncertain times car buyers want to feel confident in their purchase - and that is one promise they can be certain of with Kia."

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