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Topic Volkswagen Passenger SEAT Cupra



AFFORDABLE:
The Dacia Jogger



FUNKY: The VW ID.Buzz

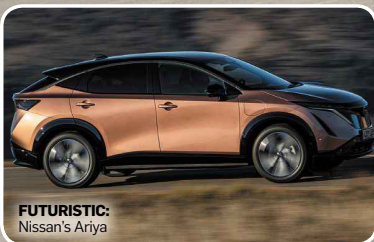


STYLISH: The Cupra Born

Full EVs, diesels, seven-seaters, wacky vans and funky 4x4s... The Sunday World Motormouth team are both agreed and divided as they pick their...



TOP GEAR OF



FUTURISTIC:
Nissan's Ariya



PREMIUM:
BMW i4

ROBBIE'S TOP SIX OF 2022

A FEW weeks back I wrote an article congratulating Volkswagen Ireland on scooping the top gong in this year's Irish Car of the Year awards for its ID.Buzz.

The long-awaited Microbus, which was more than two decades in the making, finally arrived on our shores this year and was almost celebrated more than Lionel Messi lifting the World Cup trophy last week.

However, in the same article I explained why I could not give it my personal overall winner of the year as its price tag, which starts at just north of €65k, is way out of reach for many Irish families.

In my personal view, the Irish Car of the Year should be awarded to a motor that ticks all the boxes regarding space, technology and safety and one that won't have the bank manager constantly on your back.

For that reason I award the all-new Opel Astra my top award for 2022.

OPEL Astra
Opel obviously still see a big future

for family hatchback cars that have sadly been left on the sidelines in an industry dominated by SUVs and Crossovers.

The new Astra is spacious, stylish inside and out and loaded with the latest technology. Prices for the new Opel Astra Opel SC 1.2 start at €29,380.

DACIA Jogger

The Dacia Jogger was chosen by a panel of journalists as the overall winner at the AA Ireland Car Awards this year.

It may not be electric, but in every other sense it's the car of the moment. Spacious, practical, affordable and frugal, the Jogger is a proper seven seater and is very much affordable with prices starting at €27,990.

VOLKSWAGEN ID.Buzz

After more than 20 years in the making, the all-new all-electric ID.Buzz was definitely well worth the wait. It's extremely funky and spacious and we can't wait for the campervan version to arrive. Prices for the new ID.Buzz start at €66,295.

CUPRA Born

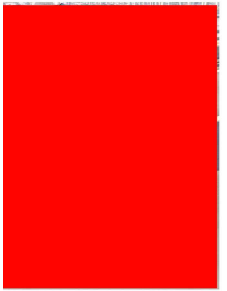
The all-electric Cupra Born is yet another hidden gem in the Volkswagen group. It's the Spanish brand's first fully-electric car, and it's fantastic. Sharing many of its underpinnings with the Volkswagen ID.3, I think it is far more stylish and it's five grand cheaper too, with prices starting at €40,820.

NISSAN Ariya

I was late to the Nissan Ariya party this year and only got behind the wheel of it in the last few weeks when it blew me away. Its futuristic looks, state-of-the-art technology and enormous amount of space inside ticked all the boxes for me. Prices for the Nissan Ariya start at €48,995.

BMW i4

The all-electric BMW i4 is the best premium electric show in town in my eyes. The i4 is basically an electric version of the 4 Series Gran Coupe and it's pricey but fantastic. It handles superbly like a petrol/diesel model and prices start at €68,825.



TOP BILLING
The Opel Astra was
Motormouth's No.1 car
of the year



FABULOUS: Range
Rover Sport



GREAT VALUE:
Dacia Jogger



PHENOMENAL:
Polestar 2

THIS YEAR...

DARAGH'S TOP SIX OF 2022

WHAT a bumper year for cars in Ireland. Brand new models like the ID.Buzz and the Jogger landed on the island while tweaked versions of some old-school classics nearly shocked us more.

There may be a narrative suggesting a seismic shift towards electrification, but if 2022 sales are anything to go by... ICE is not dead yet. Not by a long stretch, from fun little SUVs to €125k gigantic ones that park themselves with the push of a button. This was a hard decision but between myself and Robbie we have covered the best of the year.

OPEL Astra

My favourite car of the year was the latest version of the classic Opel Astra. Upgrades and tweaks to established models rarely have such an impact but this 7th-gen Astra is mind-bogglingly good. I took it from Dublin to Dingle to Rosslare and back to Dublin in 48 hours and it soaked up every single inch of the 1000km I stuck on the clock. I would

buy it in a heartbeat. Crimson Red or Electric Yellow. At €28,695 I am not that picky.

SUZUKI Jimmy

You won't find a single negative review of the insanely-brilliant Suzuki Jimmy. The only snag (and it's a big one to be fair) is that it is a commercial vehicle and won't be out as a passenger model any time soon. Still though, if you are in the market for one of the best looking and best value commercial jeeps in Ireland then look no further.

MERCEDES EQB

I said it in June and I will say it again... how can they charge so little for a full-electric seven-seater and have a Merc badge on the front? This is the answer to so many people's question. And if anyone was in any doubt about Mercedes' commitment to the world of EVs they just need to look at this beaut.

DACIA JOGGER

Another great value seven-seater is the Dacia Jogger. Easily the biggest shock of the year, this car won over

the hearts and minds of every motor journalist who got behind its wheel. From as little as €24,590 it can be sitting in your driveway.

POLESTAR 2

New car. New model. New option. Up until this year the Tesla has dominated the €70-80k corporate EV market but now there are a few disrupters in the game and *Motormouths* is loving it.

The Swedish offering is this Polestar 2, which was phenomenal and worth every penny. Plus they now have a funky showroom in Sandyford so you can head along and take a look. How novel.

RANGE ROVER Sport

I spent most of my week in November telling people that this wasn't the full Range Rover and only the 'Sport' version. This new Plug-In Hybrid iteration comes with all the bells and whistles and will cost you north of €110k even for the entry level model, but it is truly fabulous in every way. If money was no option, this is on my new 'fictitious' car list.



JUST BRILLIANT:
Suzuki Jimmy



FULLY ELECTRIC:
Mercedes EQB