EVERYTHING

NEW CAR REVIEW

# **2015 TOYOTA RAV 4**

## Toyota's family-friendly crossover has sharp-edged styling and hybrid offered in 2016

ow in its third season, the current-generation, RAV4 exemplifies the qualities that keep it a perennial hit. Customers love its sharpedged styling and roomy, versatile five-seat cabin. The interior has a premium look and feel with softtouch accents and drivercentric controls.

Sure to get attention in

any weather, RAV4 drives into 2015 with a new Blizzard Pearl Premium Package for the RAV4 Limited grade. This special package dresses the already stylish RAV4 in Blizzard Pearl paint and new 18-inch machine-finished wheels with black painted pockets.

At the opposite end of the thermometer, new Hot Lava paint joins the lineup. The one-touch power liftgate with driver-selectable memory height settings, standard on the Limited, is now an option for the XLE grade.

#### INTERIOR

Though taking up a smallish parking space outside, the RAV4 is cavernous inside, with ample room for five adults and 38.4 cu. ft. of cargo capacity behind the rear seats. With the 60/40 split rear seats folded, that space expands to 73.4 cu. ft.

The front seats feature a slim seat back design to enhance rear-passenger knee room. The rear seatbacks also recline several degrees.

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#### POWER

Practicality meets fun with the RAV4's 2.5-liter direct-injection four-cylinder engine. Coupled to a standard six-speed automatic transmission, the engine smoothly delivers 176 horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 172 lb.-ft. of torque at 4,100 rpm.

Choose Sport mode, and the RAV4 sharpens shift timing, throttle response, and steering feel. Feeling frugal? Select Eco mode and the RAV4 optimizes powertrain operation to maximize fuel economy.

#### COMFORT

The RAV4's smooth ride, handling agility and cabin quietness owes much to a body structure that makes extensive use of high-strength steel. The MacPherson strut front suspension and a double-wishbone rear suspension let the RAV4 absorb bumps, ruts and railroad crossings with composure.

Vehicle-speed-sensitive rack-and-pinion electric power steering provides precision feel and quick response.

offering four different Entune audio systems.

In the RAV4 LE, the standard Entune Audio system features a 6.1-in. touchscreen, AM/FM/CD, Bluetooth hands-free phone connectivity and audio streaming, iPod connectivity and control, USB 2.0, AUX mini-jack, and six speakers. The Entune touchscreen, which also serves as the display for the standard backup camera, allows access to the audio system and HVAC settings, navigation and Entune.

#### **2016 HYBRID**

The 2016 RAV 4 is the 8th vehicle to join the Toyota Hybrid family.

It features a Hybrid System that consists of a 2.5-liter, 4-cylinder and eCVT transmission.

All Hybrids will be equipped with an All-Wheel-Drive System with Intelligence featuring a rear motor that operates independent from the front motor.

This additional electric motor delivers instant torque to the rear wheels only when additional

traction is needed, helping prevent wheel spin.

While we don't yet have power and MPG figures for you today we can tell you that this is a no compromise SUV, delivering moe power with better fuel efficiency than the standard gas model.

### BYTHE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 104.7 in. Length: 179.9 in.

**Width:** 72.6 in.

Height: 65.4 in.

Base Engine: 2.5 liter four-cylinder,

176 hp, 172 lb. ft. torque **Transmission:** 6-speed ECT-i

automatic

**EPA Mileage:** 24 city, 31 highway

