

Presenting

Jaguar's

Symphony

in V8.

The performance is about to begin. Introducing the XJ8. With a resculpted interior, a new multiplex electrical



RANGE ROVER 40 SE

Well, it depends on what you're looking for. Folks who buy full-size SUVs want "the flexibility and package to be able to do the things they want to do," explains Dan Gorrell of Strategic Visions, a California market research firm. Translation: they don't like to make many compromises. And with these full-size SUVs, they don't have to. They deliver plenty of horsepower and even more torque. That means hefty towing capacity. And they've got the room to carry just about anything, from groceries to an antique chest. Anything bigger? Call a moving company.

Of course, there are some trade-offs potential buyers should consider. These big beasts are sized for the open road, not tight urban streets. Navigating your neighborhood may take a little getting used to, especially if you're trying to squeeze into a parking spot designed for a compact sedan.

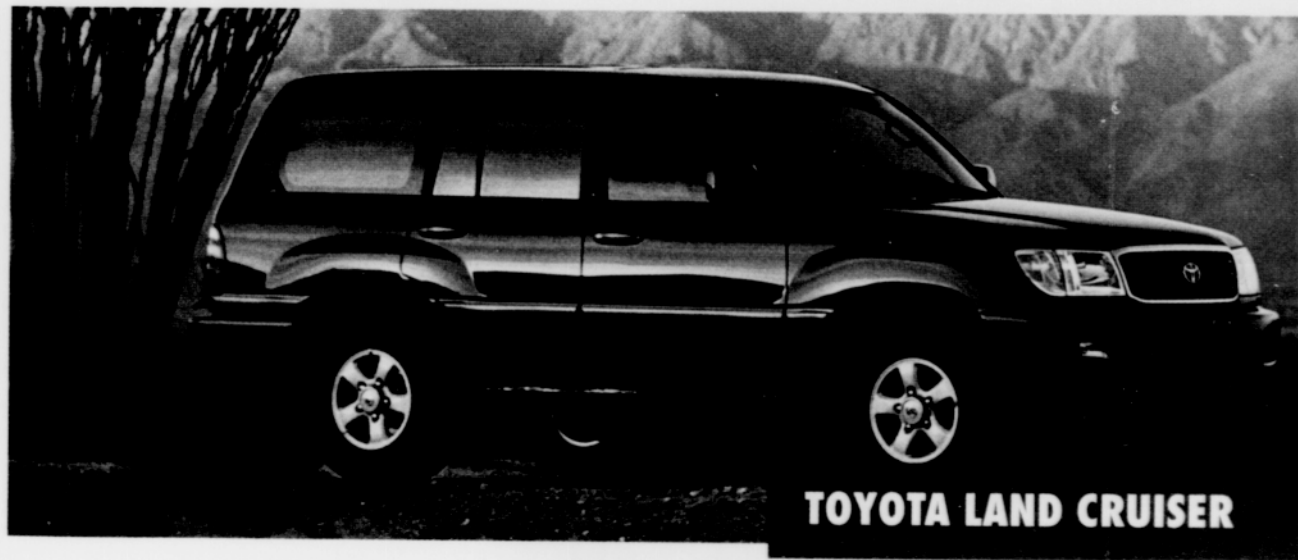
Fuel economy is another factor to consider. Run down the accompanying chart (See page 35) and you'll notice we're talking barely 13-to-15 miles per gallon in urban driving. Now, with gasoline hovering around a buck a gallon, it's something most motorists can live with, but it may still leave you gasping

when you watch the numbers mount the first time you gas up.

Picking a winner from this group was not all that easy. Complicating matters was the fact that several of the most impressive new models were just not available in time for all of our AAOV editors to rate and rank them. So, while the restyled Toyota Land Cruiser came in third, we might have to rethink that in the months to come. Our initial inspection suggests it is clearly a chart-topper.

"Style, performance and comfort were key areas we considered when making our selections," says Randi Payton, AAOV publisher and editor-in-chief. "Even though these vehicles are based on the same platforms as pick-up trucks, consumers in urban areas should shy away from a full-size SUV that has a bouncy, pick-up truck ride and lean toward one with a more refined, car-like ride."

That's why the Lincoln Navigator is the unanimous choice of our editors. AAOV Senior Editor Winfred Cross sums up the general sentiment, noting while "the use of chrome is a bit liberal the ride and handling are superb.



TOYOTA LAND CRUISER