

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2007 Nissan Altima 2.5 S

BY KATHLEEN CARR

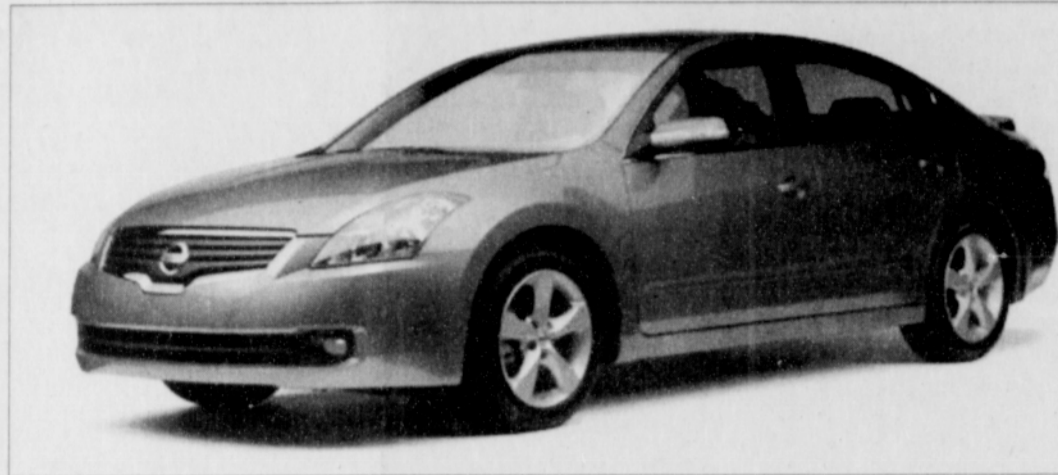
"Altima the Next Generation: Evolution Without Substitution"

Nissan takes up the gauntlet in the family-sedan skirmishes with a redesigned Altima that looks great and offers some fancy new gadgetry. Nissan engineers proclaimed the targeted goal is creating "the best performing front-wheel-drive sedan in the world." This target has eluded many auto manufacturers over the years. However, Nissan seems to have stepped up to the challenge. The Altima is definitely the "workhorse" of the Nissan sedan fleet. If you are one of the many fans of the Altima, the 2007 Altima should dazzle you.

Starting with an all-new "D" platform, Nissan lowered the engine, upgraded the front suspension geometry and improved the shock absorbers for better steering response and handling. The new engine location provides a reduction in torque steer, while a new

upper cowl structure provides increased rigidity at the front-suspension mounting points.

Nissan has been pushing CVT technology for a decade. It feels that the improved efficiency and smoothness offered by this transmission design represents the wave of the future. The CVT (continuously variable transmission) has "adaptive logic", which keeps the vehicle from unnecessarily changing gears while going up or down hills. The transmission has normal, sport and economy modes. It's also designed to "learn" the driver's particular driving style, so as to match shift points to that style. Nissan's expects to sell one million CVTs globally every year by 2008. If they all work as well as this one, I will happily contribute to that number. Other technology features include a new speed-sensitive power-steering system and improved braking system with



SPECIFICATIONS: 2.5-liter, 16 valve 4-cylinder engine; 175 horsepower and 180 lbs. torque; 5-speed automatic with Xtronic continuously variable transmission (CVT); City - 26 mpg, Highway - 34 mpg; \$23,540 MSRP.

four-wheel discs.

Nissan redoubled its efforts with the 2007 Altima, a car that's slightly smaller in length than its predecessor but offers more luxury, extra power and refined styling. The exterior has been made more sleek and aerodynamic. The most noticeable exterior styling change is in the rear, where jeweled taillights are

jagged and stretch farther toward the C-pillar than before. The lower bumper wraps cleanly around, and dual exhaust pipes are standard. Revisions are less apparent in the front. The grille includes a subtle notch in the center that Nissan calls its "T" shape. The 2007 Altima's flared fenders and sculpted headlights resemble Nissan's 350Z

sports car.

Inside, there is a world of difference in the new Altima. Nissan did its homework, and for this redesign wanted to "build on the strengths and address the weaknesses" of last year's model. The rock-hard plastics have been replaced with leather and the interior controls have also clearly improved. For instance,

our car was equipped with dual-zone climate controls and the temperature knob has a slick temperature display inside of the knob. The interior feels more like a luxury vehicle. The 2007 Altima's interior can clearly stand toe-to-toe with Accord and Camry cabins. Other options include a nine-speaker Bose audio system and a Bluetooth hands-free phone system. Interior design has long been Nissan's Achilles heel, in our opinion. We are pleased to see so much improvement in the new Altima.

Nissan recognized the need to maintain a product line made up of moving targets, and the Altima has moved a few steps ahead. The 2007 Altima has morphed from being an affordable family car into a near-luxury sedan. There is so much to like about the new Altima, from style and performance to safety and efficiency. The 2007 Altima is the next generation in evolution, providing Nissan quality without substitution.



Five Generations Celebrate

A birthday celebration for Mae Dawson Rose of Portland (front, left) brings together five generations of her family, including daughter Francetta Cross (back row, from left), granddaughter Pamela Elaine Miles, great granddaughter Natasha Love, great grandson Rasheen Hudson and great great granddaughter Apple-Madysyn Rose Hudson.

Sisters Await a Loving Home

Kendra and Tristen are learning to be part of a family that values respect, love and kindness. They are giving and generous sisters, especially when each feels their needs are being met. Kendra and Tristen would both love to be the apple of adoring parents' eyes.

Kendra has discovered sports, cooking and animals. She struggles with her focus, but is doing relatively well in school. She enjoys spending time with friends.

Tristen has a complex personality. She craves acceptance, but needs considerable assistance

with social skills and appropriate self-expression. Ballet class is a healthy outlet for her, as is cooking.

Counseling has been critical for these girls in facing past abuse, as has a very structured home. They would thrive in a household where they had positive teenage role models - and certainly no younger children to compete with.

These sisters are among the approximately 300 Oregon children available for adoption through the state, generally because of abuse and neglect.

For more information call 503-542-2392 or the Department of Human Services at 1-800-331-0503.



Kendra and Tristen, ages 11 and 10.

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Homebuying Fair in Lents

Attend a Homebuying 101 8-hour workshop in the Lents neighborhood on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Kelly Elementary School, 9030 S.E. Cooper.

This workshop is hosted by the Lents Homeownership Initiative, ROSE Community Development, Portland Housing Center and Kelly SUN Community School.

Topics include information you need when looking to buy your first home, preparing for the purchase, steps in the home buying process, the importance of a home buying team, shopping for your loan and your home, understanding the role of credit, determining what you can afford and protecting yourself from predatory loans.

There will be a materials fee of \$50, and scholarships are available on a first come, first serve basis. Pre-register by calling 503-282-7744, extension 101.

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Peninsula Little League 2007

(Serving the Youth of Inner North & Northeast Portland ages 5-14)
visit our website at: www.eteamz.active.com/peninsulalittleleague
Registration available on-line beginning January 10, 2007

Softball Program	
Level	Ages
Minor	7 - 9
Major	10 - 12
Junior	13 - 14

Questions contact **Mark Washington** ~ 503-901-1722 markw@portlandobserver.com

Items to bring to sign-ups:
Birth Certificate
Proof of Address
Doctor/Insurance Information
Player Fee

Baseball Program	
Level	Ages
T-Ball	5 - 6
Farm	7 - 8
Minor	7 - 9
Major	10 - 12
Junior	13 - 14

Question contact **Jjay Lincoln** ~ 503-810-8202

Regular Sign-ups
\$64/T-Ball, \$74 All other levels
This fee includes the pepperoni fund raiser. Sell one bag of pepperoni and get \$24 off fee. Each bag contains 24 sticks.

Peninsula Park Community Center
700 N Portland Blvd
January 27th
February 3rd, 10th, and 17th
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Registration forms can be picked up Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm at the Portland Observer, 4747 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

Little League Baseball, Incorporated does not limit participation in its activities on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual preference or religious preference.

Pick up registration from the Portland Observer
Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm, 4747 NE MLK Jr. Blvd, Portland OR