

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2007 Kia Amanti

Kia Amanti Steps Up

BY KATHLEEN CARR

It has been fascinating to watch Kia and its sibling car manufacturer, Hyundai, make inroads into the American auto market. The Korean automakers have positioned themselves to follow in the footsteps of Toyota and Honda.

The Amanti is Kia's first entry in the large-car segment, designed to expand Kia's model range after building a reputation initially in the entry-level market for offering vehicles with high levels of value, quality, and safety.

Kia has revamped its Amanti flagship sedan for 2007 with updated styling and more power.

Under the hood is an all-new 3.8-liter aluminum DOHC V6 engine that delivers 264 horsepower and 260 lb-ft of torque—a 32 percent increase. Kia estimates the 0-60-mph time to be close to 9 seconds.



Specifications: 3.8-Liter 24-Valve 264-hp @ 260 lb-ft. torque V-6 Engine; 5-Speed Automatic Transmission; Basic warranty: 5-year/60,000-mile; Powertrain warranty: 10-year/100,000-mile; 19-City 26-Highway MPG; \$30,425 MSRP

You will appreciate the added muscle each time you dart into and out of the passing lane or down the merger ramp without having to bury the pedal into the firewall. Step away from the light with more confidence and lead the pack

rather than swallow its exhaust.

The new Amanti has better road-ability from a lighter platform and improved suspension. It can be driven faster and harder with less strain and more safety.

The V-6 is teamed with a 5-speed

automatic with a Sportmatic setting for shifting without fiddling with a clutch. The nicely geared rack-and-pinion, speed-sensitive steering is a major improvement. A modified all-independent suspension appreciably improves handling while still delivering a smooth ride with such items as gas-pressurized shock absorbers.

Styling has been revised and is more cohesive. There's a revised grille, new hood, headlights, front/rear bumpers, alloy wheels, trunk lid, taillights, rear quarter panels and even dual exhaust outlets.

There's also a redesigned instrument panel, and the interior gets the same flowing lines and gently curved surfaces as the exterior. The cockpit has an upscale look with chrome door handles, wood trim and leather-covered armrest. New white-blue illumination is said to "enhance interior ambiance."

Comfort and luxury features include: standard are power front seats, dual-zone automatic climate control, cruise

control, tilt leather-wrapped wheel with audio controls, AM/FM/cassette/CD audio system with 6 speakers and one-touch up-and-down anti-pinch power windows. There also are dual illuminated sun visors, automatic-on headlights and power windows, door locks with remote keyless entry and heated body color mirrors.

Standard safety features include: Dual front airbags, front and rear side airbags, curtain side airbags, front-seat active head restraints, antilock 4-wheel disc brakes, tire-pressure monitor, emergency inside trunk release.

The Amanti is far from being a sports sedan—it's not supposed to be. Rather, it is for value-minded folks who want a large car that doesn't look or act like a "value-minded" sedan. It's still for those who desire comfort and convenience in a rather upscale auto that doesn't cost an arm and a leg. The 2007 Kia Amanti steps up to the challenge—to emerge as an industry leader in value and luxury.

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SPORTS



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jefferson Logs Inspired Blowout

Jefferson High School team co-captains Alvin Johnson (from left), Marlon Miles and Kalonji Paschael line up during homecoming pregame ceremonies Friday with referees Jim Rienella and Rob Killing. Inspired by a pep talk by Jefferson alumnus and former NFL star Mel Renfro, the Democrats went on to defeat Cleveland 58-0. Jefferson is ranked ninth in the Class 5A poll.

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Charlotte Martin

Friday Prep Football Gets Political

The Jefferson Democrats will attempt to repeat their success against the Senators 7 p.m. this Friday at Madison High School.

Also at 7 p.m., Marshall visits Franklin, and Roosevelt battles Cleveland on Warrior home turf. Grant takes on Wilson 5 p.m. at Lincoln High School, followed by Lincoln and Benson on that field at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the gates for \$6, \$2 for students.

Tennis Final to Grace Portland

The Memorial Coliseum has been selected as the site for the 2007 Davis Cup Final between the United States and Russia on the Nov. 30 weekend.

The U.S. team, led by Andy Roddick, James Blake and Bob and Mike Bryan, advanced to the final contest with a 4-1 victory over Sweden. Russia, the winner of two out of the past five cups, rallied on the final day against Germany to win its semifinal, 3-2.

semifinal victories over Australia in 1981 and 1984.

The U.S. is 2-1 all-time against Russia, including a victory in Moscow in the 1995 Davis Cup Final, the last time the U.S. won the championship.

"The stage is set for a memorable event -- a classic match-up between our top American team and the defending Davis Cup champions from Russia," said Arlen Kantarian, head of the U.S. Tennis Association. "This is the first Davis Cup Final in the U.S. in 15 years, and we expect a pumped up and patriotic capacity crowd in the great city of Portland -- one of the most passionate sports cities in the country."

This will be the first Davis Cup Final held in the United States since 1992, and the Memorial Coliseum last hosted Davis Cup

Drug Testing Found Ineffective

Random drug and alcohol testing does not reliably keep student-athletes from using, and the mere presence of testing increases some risk factors for future substance use, Oregon Health & Science University researchers report.

"Prior to this study, there was little research and no randomized trials to establish whether student-athlete drug and alcohol testing is an effective deterrent," said Linn Goldberg, OHSU principal investigator. "Parents, schools and policy-makers now can make evidence-based, cost-effective decisions about how best to protect the health

and well-being of young athletes."

The two-year study was conducted in 11 high schools within 150 miles of Portland.

The researchers found that drug and alcohol use during the month leading up to the test did not differ among student-athletes at schools with drug and alcohol testing and those with no drug and alcohol testing at any time point. They also found athletes at schools with drug and alcohol testing felt less athletically competent, perceived school authorities were less opposed to drug use and believed less in the benefits of drug testing.



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