Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2008 Nissan Quest 3.5 SE

A modern space for family life

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Nissan restyled its Quest minivan, outfitting it with a new instrument panel, a new center console and revised exterior panels, including new front and rear treatments for a cleaner look than before.

A new color - Lakeshore Slate is available for 2008, but otherwise not a lot has changed on the outside. It still features a low beltline in front that rises as it moves toward the rear. Strongly defined wheel arches continue to set the Quest apart from the rest of the minivan field.

For 2008, the Quest returns in essentially the same form as 2007. It continues to be powered by a 240horsepower version of the same 3.5-liter, DOHC V-6 used in both the Maxima and Altima, tied to a stan-V-6 provides ample torque, giving the large (seven-passenger/threeand passing power.

Nissan says the Quest is one of fold. the roomiest front-wheel-drive ond- and third-row seats fold flat



Specifications: 3.5-Liter V-6 235-hp @ 240 lb-ft. torque engine; 5-Speed Automatic transmission; 16-City 24-Highway MPG; \$38,260.MSRP.

dard five-speed automatic. The big into the floor, creating a large 148.7the third-row seat also gets autorow) Quest confident acceleration matically folding headrests and a ing tray table in the same position.) spring assist that makes it easier to

sole between the driver and front are optional.

passenger that includes a hidden cubic-foot cargo area. This year, storage compartment. (Those who don't choose that option get a fold-

Trim choices include either a faux wood style or a brushed, metal look, The Quest has front bucket seats and there are chrome bezels around minivans in the market. The sec- and an optional fixed center con- the gauges. Rear skylight windows

well-equipped models - 3.5, 3.5S, 3.5SL, and 3.5SE. The S'versions now can be ordered with rear parking assist; SL versions get a standard power sliding side door, rearview monitor, dual-zone climate control, and automatic headlights. The SE versions get Bluetooth and

The 2008 Quest is offered in four XM hardware standard, though the satellite radio subscription must be paid separately.

A 265-watt, ten-speaker audio system can be ordered, as can Bluetooth and 19-inch wheels and run-flat tires. The '08 Quest retains its signature Skyview fixed roof-

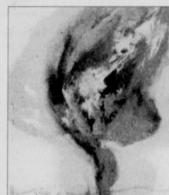
The 2008 Quest's windows assist in safe driving. By allowing drivers to enjoy terrific visibility, thanks to; a long side glass, side mirrors that are ample, and an enormous windshield. We also appreciate the windshield which makes for an expansive view out the front. while the side mirrors easily allowed for confident lane changes.

All Quests have anti-lock brakes; side-impact airbags for the front seats, three-row side curtain airbags, active head restraints for the front seats and traction control; are standard and tire-pressure monitors. An electronic stability system: is optional.

Though the minivan class leaders offer a more luxurious interior ambience, the current Quest has more than a few things in its favor. With its peppy acceleration, composed (even entertaining) handling and roomy cabin, the current Quest is a solid pick for families looking: for a minivan that breaks from the mainstream. And although we'd like to see Nissan improve the breadth of the van's safety features, there's no arguing with the Quest's top? safety scores in NHTSA and IIHS crash tests.

The 2008 Nissan Quest provides families with a modern space for life; and living.

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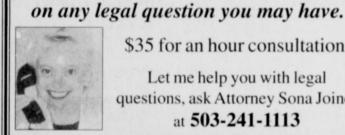
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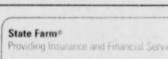
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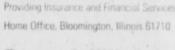


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