

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles



Specifications: 4.2L V8 300HP Engine; 6 speed automatic transmission; 16 city mpg, 25 highway mpg; \$58,850 MSRP

2009 Jaguar XF Premium Luxury

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2009 XF also wears Jaguar's future design direction. Stepping away from the traditional Jaguar design, the XF is Jaguar's new four-door sports sedan with a fresh, modern look. The air dam and wire-mesh grille; creased hood; jewel-like headlamps; multi-spoke 19-inch aluminum alloy wheels; and deck-lid leaper say luxury, an image missing the last few years.

A quick glance at the XF's exterior makes it obvious that this is not a car to be driven slowly. From the side, the XF looks more like a coupe than a sedan, with a long front end and sharply raked roof. The sharp roof

angle and large wheel arches give the appearance of a cat ready to pounce.

Goose the throttle, and the 4.2-liter V8 engine comes to life. Zero-to-sixty acceleration time is 6.2 seconds. For those who want more torque, a supercharged block on the top grade reaches sixty in 5.1 seconds.

All models come standard with a six-speed automatic transmission. Though it took me some time to find the gear selector, I'm glad that Jaguar engineers have abandoned the J-shift lever. I always found rounding the corner to shift into manual mode a little awkward. A sport mode on the rotary knob adjusts the shift points for more aggressive driving. The novelty is the dial-it-up gear-shift. Push the engine start button and the dial rises from the center console. Twist it to

D, and the 6-speed automatic does the rest. When you turn the engine off, via push button, of course, the dial retracts into the console.

Ride is smooth and quiet with standard CATS, or computer activated technology suspension, that automatically adjusts to iron out irregularities in the road. Handling is precise with speed-sensitive power steering and those 19-inch treads. Traction control and stability control keep you going in the direction pointed. Brakes require only light pressure to bring you back down from speed in a straight line; four-wheel anti-lock brakes are standard.

The 2009 XF has a beautiful exterior in the tradition of classic Jaguar design. The XF is a quiet, elegant car with enough power and performance to satisfy driving enthusiasts.

Elite Prep Stars Prepare for Battle

continued from Front

Cameron McCaffery and wingmen Cody Hickey and freshman phenom Jordan Tebbutt and Team Oregon will unquestionably be prepared for victory. But the team can't look past the Washington All-American team as their roster is stacked to the hilt.

In the backcourt alone, rising seniors Abdul Gaddy and Avery Bradley out of Tacoma both rank as the top guards at their position on the West Coast and nationally and fellow rising seniors

Peyton Siva (Seattle Franklin) and Aaron Dotson (Seattle Rainier Beach) are right there as well.

Class of 2010 stud Josh Smith (Kentwood) will man the post and will be surrounded by lanky forwards Cole Dickerson (Tacoma) and Washington State-bound Patrick Simon (Ephrata). Arguably the top player in the country in the Class of 2011, Tony Wroten Jr. will also be in the gym as Team Washington head coach Jim Marsh will have incredible depth from top to bottom on his team.

The Elite Youth Clash of the

Classes game will give a preview of what's to come on the scene in future years as well.

The nation's top eighth grader, Nigel Williams-Goss of Happy Valley, leads the way for Oregon while others such as Frank Norman (Team Jones), Austin Dyer (Portland Hoop Kings), Khan Hosey (ICP Portland), Kameron Chatman (ICP Portland), and Kadeem Strickland (ICP Portland) will also strut their stuff.

Washington will pose heady point men Arell Hennings (Seattle Rotary Style) and Will Dorsey Jr.

(ICP Portland) along with No. 1 seventh grade shooting guard, Alonzo Trier (Seattle Rotary Style).

Saturday's games are scheduled at 5:30 p.m. for the younger players and 7:30 p.m. for the high school players.

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