

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2008 Volvo S80 T6 AWD Sedan Turbocharged Scandinavian Luxury

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Volvo's S80 is getting on in years, but the latest redesign did much to keep the model youthful and aggressive looking. The 2008 S80 gives all the more bang for far less buck.

The new S80 turbocharged, all-wheel-drive T6 model adds a more-affordable performance-oriented alternative to the S80 lineup.

The new 3.0-liter turbocharged engine offers an impressive pairing output with a fat, flat torque curve. Volvo's turbocharged six is a brilliant piece of work that literally rivals the V8 for enthusiastic real-world performance and establishes the new T6 AWD as the most desirable member of the S80 line.

The new S80 T6 AWD uses a 3.0-liter turbocharged variation that develops 281 horsepower and 295 pound-feet of torque. All S80 engines are backed by an electronically controlled six-speed Geartronic automatic transmission with a manual-style Sportshift mode.

Classically understated but with detail refinements that reflect a new interpretation of traditional Volvo styling cues, the S80 has a lean, well-tailored appearance. Its subtle wedge shape is effectively reinforced by a sweeping roofline and prominent should-

er ridges. At the rear, the S80's short deck is framed by large taillamps and accented with chrome exhaust tips. Although Volvo has shaken the boxy look it made famous, the S80 is still unmistakably Volvo.

Highlighting the S80's standard features are numerous power assists, including eight-way adjustment for the front seats, a tilt and telescopic steering column, dual-zone climate control, 160-watt/eight-speaker AM/FM/CD audio system with an auxiliary input and MP3 capability, power sunroof, Volvo's anti-whiplash (WHIPS) and side-impact protection (SIPS) systems, Dynamic Traction and Stability Control, anti-lock disc brakes with Elec-

tronic Brake Assistance and front, front-side and side-curtain airbags. The T6 and V8 models include all-wheel drive while the top-line S80 also gets the Interior Air Quality System (IAQS) and the Personal Car Communicator (PCC) with keyless starting that notifies you if the vehicle has been tampered with or if an intruder is inside.

The S80's options start with four key groups: The Climate Package, the Dynaudio Package, the Sport Package and the Collision Avoidance Package. Single options include DVD-based navi-



Specifications: 3.0-Liter, Turbo, 6-Cylinder, 281-hp @ 295 lb-ft. torque engine; AWD; 6-Speed automatic transmission; 15-City 23-Highway MPG; \$49,025. MSRP

gation, dual-screen rear-seat DVD entertainment system, front and rear Park Assist, Blind Spot Information System and the Personal Car Communicator security monitoring system.

The S80's well-appointed cabin reflects a Swedish-modern mentality, with limited flash but lots of function. All versions match leather, wood and brushed aluminum trim with legible analog gauges, well-placed controls and Volvo's elegant slim-line center

stack that houses the audio and climate control switchgear.

The S80's somewhat firm front seats feature eight-way power assist and "ortho-posture" design to provide long-range comfort, while its 60/40 split-folding rear bench has sufficient head and leg room to take on a pair of average-sized adults or a trio of kids, or it can be dropped to reveal a large pass-through opening that significantly increases the cargo-carrying capability over that of

the somewhat modestly-scaled 14.9 cubic-foot trunk.

Standard safety features across the S80 line include an advanced, reinforced passenger compartment with energy-absorbing frontal structure, whiplash protection seating, a tire pressure monitor, four years of roadside assistance, anti-theft system, daytime running lights, anti-lock brakes with electronic distribution, anti-skid control, intelligent air bags, and more.

The Volvo S80 is an excellent choice among luxury sedans. It's surefooted stance and solid on the highway. The all-wheel-drive system that comes on most models adds to an impressive safety package.

We think the S80 is the best overall car ever to come out of Sweden, slick, modern, pretty but understated, quick and powerful. It's relatively sporty and there aren't any rough edges on this package anywhere.

## Medical Students of Color

Students from the University of California at Davis Medical School attend a regional conference focusing on the needs and concerns of medical students of color, Oct. 24-26, at Oregon Health Sciences University. Pictured are Brooke Vuong (from left), Tracy Burns, Karina Melgar, Omar Washington, Laura Guadiana, Manuel Tapia and Kelly Kahari. Former Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber was the keynote speaker.



### Veterans at Talking Drum

The community is invited to hear black veterans share real life stories from their experiences in the armed forces during a Veterans Day observance, Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Talking Drum Bookstore, 446 N.E. Killingsworth St. The public discussion is sponsored by the National Association of Black Veterans and Talking Drum.

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### Dear Deanna!

I've spent quite a bit of money on dates and dining trying to get a relationship but I get nothing in return. I try to hold on to chivalry and follow the rules on dates. I'm a perfect gentleman at the movies, at dinner and I pay for everything. I'm tired and now feel that women need to get with the program and spend as well. I'm tired of watching other men do the same. How do I let a woman know I want to date her but I'm not willing to part with my money too soon? --Roger Davis; Atlanta, Ga.

### Dear Roger:

If you're complaining then it's obvious you're trying to be impressive by spending money you don't have. If "getting something" drives your motivation for dinner and dating then you got what you deserved. Nothing. You should lead by example. Before your next

### Ask Deanna!



Real People,  
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date have a money discussion and determine who's paying or if you'll go. It's none of your business how other men spend their money and you shouldn't hate the player or the game.

### Dear Deanna!

My 20-year-old daughter had been living with her dad and his wife. He informed her that she would have to move out at the end of year so she didn't pay her car payment for two months. She has a job but her car got repossessed and although I'm in a bad

place myself with two minor daughters, I tried to support her. My daughter is now angry with me, which is making me feel guilty. Am I wrong to feel guilty about my daughter's situation? -- Anonymous; Los Angeles

### Dear Anonymous:

Your husband had the right idea of making your daughter responsible. At age 20, there's no excuse for not paying her own bills so losing the car is her fault. As a mother you feel her pain but as an adult you have to allow her to mature, make mistakes and grow up. Realize that your daughter is an adult while you focus on the small kids. On another note, your daughter should be in college so she can become independent and eventually not rely on anyone for financial support.

### Dear Deanna!

I'm a young man and I'm saved. I love the Lord with all my heart but

now I realize that the temptation of the flesh is making me weak. I was sexually active before my walk of faith and now I feel as if I'm going to slip into fornication again. How do I stay strong with this and not give in to this sinful pleasure? --Douglas; Omaha, Neb.

### Dear Douglas:

The act of celibacy requires prayer and divine intervention from above. This is a worldly sin that can't be conquered alone by man. Pray for steadfast guidance and determination to abstain from sex as you strive in faith to guard your temple until you have a wife. There will certainly be some rough days and long nights.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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