

# Portland Observer Auto Review

## 2010 Volkswagen Routan SE

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Volkswagen started out with the Bus version of a mini van long before mini vans were invented. Then move the vehicle in to the a van from the microbus. For a period of time Volkswagen has not had any Van style vehicles. In 2009 that came back to the market with the Routan. There are four different trim levels to choose from S, SE, SEL and SEL Premium. There are not major changes from last year model. Volkswagen features a slightly different look via the company's familiar headlight and grille design, as well as unique taillights for the Routan. It borrows from the Chrysler family with it design and still has room for improvements.

The 2010 Volkswagen Routan SE comes with a 3.8-liter V6 that produces 197 horsepower and 230 pound-feet of torque and a six-speed automatic transmission. The V6 has enough sufficient in the power range but of course if you want more power then you will need to move up to the SEL trim level. The Routan stiffer springs, tauter shock-absorber set-

tings and revised valving in the power steering system does exactly that, creating a package that's firmer than the average minivan adding to the comfortable ride over long periods of time.

It is a seven passenger vehicle with a third row seat that lays down to adjust for large loads. The second row seating is very roomy and comfortable. Unfortunately there is not stow and go on the second row seating but it can be remove when needed to haul a larger load. The Routan SE adds 17-inch alloy wheels, power-sliding rear doors, upgraded V-text upholstery, heated front seats and tri-zone manual climate control. This trim's standard features list also includes power-adjustable pedals, an eight-way power driver seat, removable second-row captain's chairs, rear sunshades, Bluetooth and an upgraded audio system with a six-CD



*Tested vehicle information: 3.8-liter V6 engine; six-speed automatic transmission; 17 city mpg, 25 highway mpg; MSRP \$30,600*

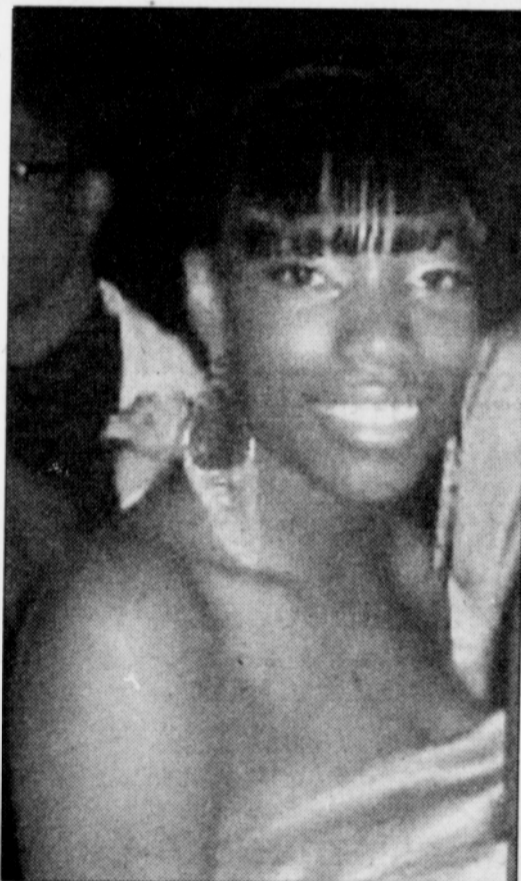
changer. An option on the SE is th RSE (rear seat entertainment) it adds a rear-seat entertainment system as well as a power liftgate and satellite radio. The SE with RSE and Navigation adds that comes with a hard-drive-based navigation system with

digital music storage capability and a back-up camera.

The overall opinion of the Routan is that exterior options like power sliding doors and a power rear liftgate make the Routan family-friendly. Its passenger cabin is roomy, and while

its interior isn't as versatile as its Chrysler cousins', the Routan's seats are more comfortable. It may not have the refined suspension of its counterparts but Routan is one that should be looked at as an option while in the market.

## Congratulations Graduates



**Kemile B Jones**; congratulations on getting your high school diploma on June 6 2010 and your acceptance to Johnson C Smith University one of the best historically black colleges. Kemile has demonstrated her gift of learning as a child. She was placed in the talented and gifted program. Kemile is very hands on and participates in and out of the class room. She once was a student at Operation Easy, then as she got older she volunteered her time helping others. Kemile also was involved in an internship at OHSU.

Your graduation is something to be proud of. Good luck in college Love your mother Isabelle Robertson, and family O'marr Johnson, Keisha McCulloch, Dreyona Robertson and Devon Johnson.



**O'marr Johnson**; congratulations on your recent graduation with Honors from Marylhurst University with a Masters Of Business Administration On June 12, 2010. I would also like to wish you a Happy Father's day and Happy birthday on June 22nd. O'marr has worked hard to reach his goals after graduating from Tuskegee University on May 12, 2002. He has been a great role model for his little sister Kemile B Jones he will continue to support his community and family. Love your mother Isabelle Robertson and family Keisha McCulloch, Kemile Jones and Devon Johnson.



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