

Portland Observer Auto Review 2011 Cadillac CTS Premium Collection

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Cadillac is moving towards trying to become more competitive in the market with the 2011 CTS. The CTS Coupe joins the recently introduced Sport Wagon, and the respected, award winning Sedan. All models offer optional all-wheel-drive, as well as a large dose of style. The CTS Coupe is a midsize luxury car with seating for four and a cockpit feel to the interior of the vehicle.

The Cadillac CTS come equipped with a direct-injected 3.6-liter V-6, it delivers 304 hp and 273 lb-ft of torque, available at 6400 and 5200 rpm.. This engine comes with six-speed manual or automatic transmissions, the latter featuring manual shifting capability via the shift lever or buttons on the back of the upper steering-wheel posts. The CTS Coupe's wheelbase remains the same as the CTS sedan's, the coupe has a wider track for slightly improved cornering and the anti-roll bars are altered from the sedan, smaller in front and thicker at the rear for a more balanced cornering feel. It comes standard with rear-wheel drive. The overall handling of the vehicle was great offered smooth ride and cornered nicely.

The Premium Collection includes standard sunroof, rear park assist, real wood interior trim, and 10 speaker Bose 5.1 surround sound entertainment/information system featuring a "pop up" Navigation screen and 40-gig hard drive. Also included are high density directional Xenon headlamps that follows vehicle steering, limited slip differential, backup safety camera, heated and cooling seats with power and lumber, sport suspension and lots more. New for 2011 is tweaked chassis including a 2-inch wider rear track, upgraded interior materials including Sapele wood, and electronic touchpads that replace conventional door handles.

The CTS Coupe has a great looked from the first glance, still not real impressed with the rear pointed look of the vehicle. One of the downsides to this was the lack of vision when switching lanes the style of the rear windows and the height of the vehicle hindered the visibility of switch lanes. The interior was great looking but being short I felt like the interior was going to swallow me up. The CTS Coupe overall is an impressive vehicle, smooth ride, stylist look, and great handling with a few minor visibility concerns.

Test Vehicle Information: 3.6L V6 Direct Injection; 6-Speed automatic transmission; 18 city mpg, 27 highway mpg; MRSP \$47010 Tested Vehicle MRSP \$51030.



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