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SUBARU & MAZDA KEEP PACE WITH LUXURY BRANDS IN CONSUMER REPORTS 2016 ANNUAL BRAND REPORT CARD

Audi, Subaru, Lexus, Porsche, BMW lead the pack

YONKERS, NY— Consumers don't always have to spend top dollar to get a great car. The Consumer Reports 2016 Brand Report Card reveals mainstream brands like Subaru and Mazda can often deliver as much quality as more opulent luxury brands.

The highest overall brand scores in Consumer Reports' annual indicator of which brands make the best cars went to Audi (80) and Subaru (78). Consumer Reports currently Recommends 100 percent of each brand's models that it has tested. Luxury brands Lexus (76), Porsche (76), and BMW (76) rounded out the top five in CR's rankings.

Mazda finished just outside the lead pack in sixth place, with GM's premium brand Buick in seventh place. Consumer Reports is currently Recommending 100 percent of the Mazda models and 80 percent of the Buick models it has tested.

"It's not enough to make cars that drive and handle well. Consumers are best served when those vehicles are also highly reliable and safe," said Jake Fisher, Consumer Reports director of automotive testing.

In total, 30 brands were included in CR's 2016 Brand Report Card. To determine which marques consistently deliver cars that serve consumers well, Consumer Reports tabulated the overall score, road test score, and predicted reliability results for each tested model of a brand. Then CR's auto experts averaged those scores at the brand level as an indicator of which brands make the best cars.

CR's rankings are based only on vehicles that are currently for sale on the market and that the organization has tested at its 327-acre Automotive Test Center in Connecticut. Audi and VW diesel vehicles that have been pulled from dealerships—following their recall and stop-sale last year for cheating on EPA emissions tests—are not included in the scoring. The rankings do not account for corporate practices or brand perceptions, and despite Audi's score, Consumer Reports strongly believes that Volkswagen AG, the maker of VW and Audi vehicles, should be held accountable for manipulating emissions testing with its vehicles.

Scores for all 30 brands included in the Consumer Reports 2016 Brand Report Cards are available in the Annual Auto issue of *Consumer Reports* or by visiting the Consumer Reports 2016 Autos Spotlight on ConsumerReports.org

Along with the Korean brand Kia (9th place), the largest Japanese brands rounded out the top 10. Toyota's strong reliability score was enough to balance its middling road test score and secure eighth place. Honda finished in the 10th spot with Consumer Reports Recommending 88 percent of its tested models.

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Other domestic brands didn't fare as well as Buick. Ford, Lincoln, and Chevrolet finished mid-pack and were largely bogged down by their inconsistent reliability scores. All Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) brands finished in the bottom third of the rankings, with Fiat coming in last.

This is the ninth consecutive year Consumer Reports has compiled and published its Car Brand Report Card. However, changes in the scoring methodology preclude comparing results from the 2016 report to information from any of the previous years.

This year, Consumer Reports does not have Brand Report Cards for Alfa Romeo, Jaguar, Maserati, Ram, Smart, and Tesla, because the organization has fewer than two currently tested models from those makes. Ratings on individual models from those brands are available at **ConsumerReports.org**

The complete 2016 Brand Report Card is available in the Annual Auto Issue of *Consumer Reports* and online at **ConsumerReports.org** starting February 23, 2016. Updated daily, ConsumerReports.org is the go-to website for the latest auto reviews, product news, blogs on breaking news and car buying information.

Connect with us for live coverage of the Autos Spotlight, on Facebook.com/ConsumerReports and on Twitter: @ConsumerReports and @CRCars. Full coverage of the 2016 Autos Spotlight is available at **ConsumerReports.org**

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Which Brands Make the Best Cars?

RANK	MAKE	OVERALL SCORE*	ROAD-TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY	% RECOMMENDED TESTED MODELS
1	Audi	80	83	●	100%
2	Subaru	78	80	●	100%
3	Lexus	76	74	●	88%
4	Porsche	76	84	○	60%
5	BMW	76	85	○	50%
6	Mazda	74	74	●	100%
7	Buick	74	76	●	80%
8	Toyota	72	69	●	62%
9	Kia	72	75	●	67%
10	Honda	71	73	○	88%
11	Hyundai	70	76	○	60%
12	Volvo	69	77	○	25%
13	Mini	68	71	○	50%
14	Mercedes-Benz	67	80	●	29%
15	Volkswagen	67	76	○	71%
16	Ford	66	74	○	38%
17	Lincoln	65	73	○	25%
18	Scion	65	62	●	75%
19	Acura	64	73	●	40%
20	Chevrolet	64	75	●	27%
21	Nissan	63	71	○	33%
22	Infiniti	63	76	●	20%
23	GMC	60	71	●	17%
24	Cadillac	58	76	●	25%
25	Dodge	58	73	●	17%
26	Chrysler	58	73	●	0%
27	Land Rover	55	71	●	0%
28	Mitsubishi	51	46	○	0%
29	Jeep	43	55	●	0%
30	Fiat	38	52	●	0%

* A brand must have at least two models with test and reliability data to be included. Alfa Romeo, Jaguar, Maserati, Ram, Smart, and Tesla lack sufficient data.

● Better ← Avg. → Worse ●

*Consumer Reports Overall Score for vehicles is an aggregate of CR's road-test performance, reliability, safety performance and owner satisfaction data. More details for CR's overall score can be found on www.ConsumerReports.org

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