

Chevrolet AVEO

Road Test

by Ian Lamming

THERE'S a recession on don't you know so we should all sit home and save our pennies while we are lucky enough to be actually earning any.

The reality, of course, is that life goes on and the chances are slim of us forgetting the hedonistic drive of a credit fuelled society.

People still want and covet. They desire and lust. They live for the day not worrying too much about the past or the future. Let's face it, if the experts are to be believed we are all going to die from swine flu, skin cancer or disappear under the meltwater waves, so why bother saving, particularly as our money earns next to no interest festering in the vault.

So while we shouldn't think about changing the car, we do, because it's human nature to want nice shiny things and want them now. And the paradox of government is that it wants us to save but it wants us to spend as well to stimulate the economy, especially on cars – talk about mixed messages.

So we want a car, we are ready to spend, but somewhere lurking in the back of the British psyche is a rainy day mentality of prudence. The result is that the discerning motorists now shops around, considers badges he might have shunned once before and is looking for value for money in the extreme.

Enter the ideal brands such as Chevrolet, Kia, Hyundai, and Skoda. Ask any dealer and they will tell you that these marques and models are suddenly flying out of the door on a wave of frugality not seen since the post-War era.

So called austerity is making shoppers much more discerning and encouraging them to consider the off-beat in search of a bargain. And they are there to be had.

Take the new Chevrolet Aveo as a fine and glorious example. It does the job perfectly well and it is cheap.





If you have an old banger to trade in under the new scrappage scheme, it will cost you buttons for a brand new car – and there’s nothing like a brand new car, whatever the make and model.

Aveo really does do everything so well it makes you feel foolish for ever spending more than £8k on any car.

For that you get a lot of car. The Vauxhall Corsa-sized hatchback looks well in metallic livery.

The overall look of the Aveo is fine with a bold nose, deep grille and airdam and tidy, modern back end.

Inside is impressive too. The plastics are a sufficiently high grade and tactile texture that it doesn’t feel cheap and it looks and feels well put together.

Dash and trim are plain and innocuous enough and specification includes CD player, aircon and electric windows.



Aveo also drives remarkably well. The ride is plush and controlled; the little 1.2 litre engine will-ing and refined. It will cruise happily all day at the motorway maximum and return good miles per gallon figures. It may be small but it is not just a town car and is just as happy on the open road as it is on the streets.

The Chevrolet is a remarkable car with an even more remarkable price tag.

Young people will love its affordability, so will the retired and the Aveo will also score well as a second car for all the family.

So if you are fed up of the spending freeze but are still not ready to go too mad then the Aveo represents a very sensible option.



Vital Statistics

- Engine: 1.2 litre, petrol
- Drivetrain: five speed manual
- Power: PS
- Top speed: 106mph
- 0-62mph: 12.8secs
- Insurance group: 4
- Miles per gallon (combined): 51.4
- CO2 (g/km): 132
- Price: £8,145.00