

# Vauxhall Corsa Design 1.3CDTi (90PS)

Road Test - by Ian Lamming



# Sherwoods

CAR buyers have never been so discerning, so informed, so demanding. Never has a car had to be so many different things to so many different people.

Once upon a time, somewhere around about yesteryear, it was much easier to pigeonhole cars. That one was utilitarian, that one was sporty, that one over there was a family saloon and that one was to go off road.



Today one car has to achieve so much and the target audience? Anywhere from a silver surfer to a Burberry-capped teen. What a nightmare for designers, what a headache for the marketing men.

New Corsa was set just that task and as the model has been one of the most successful ever those nice people at Vauxhall were certainly under a bit of pressure.

They needn't have worried as the latest incarnation is an absolute beauty. It appeals to all-comers for a host of different reasons – and some that are just the same.

Firstly it looks appealing. The young like its squat purposeful stance, its bold new nose and muscular haunches. It looks like it has been built for speed and can handle the bends as well. Aesthetics are curvy and sexy, solid and well proportioned and that's even before they have raided the parts catalogue and added all those sticky-on-bits that find favour with the young.



The more mature of us will appreciate its grown up nature. New Corsa looks a lot bigger and more solidly built than previous models. They will love the expensive feel, the quality of fit and finish, the tactile nature of the inside and out. Corsa feels like a well built upmarket product, much more so than its modest price tag would suggest.



Inside is spacious and comfortable, like it has moved up a class and the high specification completes the effect.

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VAUXHALL

Cabin is an exceptional place to inhabit with attractive instruments and well-placed controls.

Design gets air conditioning, 16in alloys, automatic lighting, rain-sensitive windscreen wipers. There's a socket for your MP3 player and wheel-mounted audio controls.

There are also sports style seats, front fog lights, trendy translucent lighting for the window controls and a piano black centre console – now that's all going to appeal to young and old.



So will performance and running costs. With fuel now well over a quid a litre, going places has never been a more costly affair. Young and old watch their pennies and the 1.3 litre CDTi will be appreciated by all.

The 90PS version boasts economy up to an amazing 74mpg and yet performance is surprisingly brisk and breezy. You wouldn't expect such a diminutive engine to perform so well especially as the Corsa is so solid on the road. But it has real usable power when you need it. It will cruise happily at the legal maximums and has enough mid-range to allow you to overtake in perfect safety.

Top speed is a law-breaking 107mph and it will break the 60mph barrier in 11.9secs. More importantly the bench mark 30 to 50mph time in fourth gear is a creditable 7.6 seconds which equates to genuine pulling power on the road.



Everyone will also appreciate the sharp power steering and comfortable yet controlled handling. It goes well around the bends and along the straights and stops in short order thanks to powerful brakes backed by ABS.

Car buyers would demand nothing less of course and in the Corsa they will find a stylish and practical hatchback that can't fail to appeal to the masses.

### Vital Statistics

Model: Vauxhall Corsa  
Design 1.3CDTi  
Engine: 1.3 litre turbo diesel  
Drivetrain: six speed manual  
Power: 90PS  
Top speed: 107mph  
0-60mph: 11.9secs  
Insurance group: 4  
Miles per gallon combined: 61.4  
CO2 (g/km): 124

