

Audi, its insignia being four interlinked rings, has achieved a remarkable growth in its UK sales. From the 14,344 vehicles sold in 1991 to represent 0.6 per cent of the market, in 2016 Audi sold 177,304 cars to raise its share to a healthy 6.4 per cent. The demand for Audi products, placing it above that of its German competitors, make it the market leader after Ford, Vauxhall and Volkswagen at 12.19, 9.47 and 7.73 per cent respectively.

A premium brand, Audi's entry level is the A1 supermini, priced from £16,965, which for 2017 has both front- and all-wheel drive options plus the availability of S tronic range. Larger, but still compact and sharing some of the A1's styling cues, is the new Q2, the first stage in Audi's acclaimed Q models and costing from £23,110 for the diesel and £26,810 for the petrol. Though in Audi parlance it has a premium compact transmission drives the front- wheels only.

respectively. With the efficiency of the latest petrol engines, Audi claims that the

Q5 can achieve up to 40.4mpg compared to the diesel's 55.4mpg, these being official figures which almost certainly will not reflect everyday driving conditions. The Q5 is impressive in both its comfort and build quality, and equally so in its performance and handling. In both models transmission is beautifully set



A4 Allroad's interior

up for the smoothest power delivery, and should you opt for the adaptive air suspension with its variable ride height and off-road modes, the ride is nothing but exemplary.

Flagship of the Q range is the new Q7 which is lighter in weight than before, has V8 commencing at an eye-watering

selling model in Europe will be the six-

Avant and A5 models are the headline sellers in the Audi catalogue, models

trying the complete range of cars.

engine offering comfortable all-season motoring with its generous specification including a multi-layered hood. And for even more dynamic performance there's the S5 model (3.0 litre V6, £51,835). The other is the 2.0 litre petrol A4 Avant Allroad (44mpg, £38,480) which, having onseven-speed S tronic auto transmission, is a fine yet practical and spacious estate car with a premium feel to its build, ride and handling. With increased ground clearance and underbody protection, this is one of the best 4x4 estates on the market.

Malcolm Bobbitt www.wheelspinautomedia.co.uk



The all-new Q5, which is a true SUV, has been extensively re-engineered and is available in two four-cylinder commencing at £40,290 and £41,335