

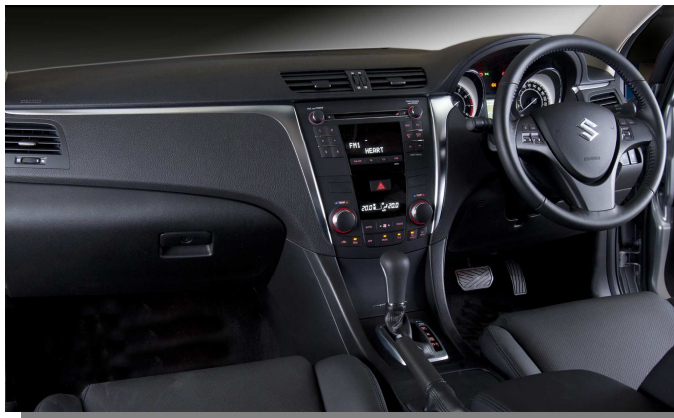
Suzuki Kizashi - a sign of greatness - by Adri Bezuidenhout

Suzuki South Africa has introduced its seventh new model to the local market in the form of the somewhat strangely-named Kizashi.

First unveiled as a concept at the 2007 Frankfurt Motor Show, the Kizashi has evolved into a four-door sedan that represents a combination of contemporary design, keen performance and involving driving dynamics.

Viewed from the front, the Kizashi has a wide stance with a curved bonnet line. The headlights also emphasise the car's width. The long wheelbase, combined with a compact overall length,

emphasises the Kizashi's short overhangs and sporty profile. The standard 18-inch alloy wheels and low-profile tyres strike a further sporty note.



At the rear, the core visual elements include an integrated bootlid spoiler and twin exhaust tailpipes.

Inside, the cabin's layout and finishes create an inviting, upmarket ambience. Key elements include a centre console, well-positioned controls and comfortable seats.

The sporty three-spoke steering wheel is trimmed in leather and incorporates backlit switches to adjust the audio system, cruise control and the readout of the information display.

The audio system, including FM/AM radio, CD and MP3 playback functions, was custom-designed for the Kizashi and features seven speakers and a subwoofer, as well as a USB port for iPod connection. Dual-zone climate control air conditioning is standard.

The Kizashi is powered by a 2,4-litre, in-line, four-cylinder engine. While based on the Grand Vitara's power unit, the twin-cam engine has been comprehensively updated for its role in the new flagship.

Maximum power output is 131 kW at 6 500 r/min, coupled to a torque peak of 230 Nm at 4 000 r/min. The engine achieves a claimed combined-cycle fuel consumption figure of 7,9 litres/100 km and a CO₂ emissions rating of 183 g/km.

The standard transmission is a six-speed manual gearbox. A new continuously variable transmission (CVT) takes the place of a conventional automatic gearbox.

Pricing:

2.4 SLX manual	R295 000
2.4 SLX CVT	R310 900

