

Jaguar's XJ super luxury sedan - by Adri Bezuidenhout

Negative perceptions are a man's worst friend. Take Jaguar as an example. Many of the older bearers of the name looked great, handled exceptionally well and offered ride quality that few, if any, of its competitors could match. However, poor finish and unreliability led to bad trade-in prices, resulting in dismal sales of new Jaguars.

Having spent a few days in the company of the new Jaguar XJ, my negative perceptions of

the marque have changed dramatically, for the better. Finish and workmanship compare with the best and had I been in charge of one or two well-known German names in the world of wheels, I would have been a worried individual.



Looks wise, especially from the rear, the new XJ is an either or design. Some like it, some don't. Most will agree that the overall shape is modern, fresh and striking. When it comes to power, performance, speed and handling, no owner in his or her right mind will come close to exceeding the car's limits. The Jaguar XJ is, in three words, poetry in motion.

When it comes to cabin layout and comfort, the XJ scores 99 out of a possible hundred. The overall stylish, yet simplistic, layout is a lesson in design. It is a pity though that there are so many chrome bits and strips that create

distracting reflections, especially for the person behind the steering wheel. Don't car designers realise that, unlike the UK and Europe, the sun shines most of the time in the rest of the world? And it is the sun that causes the irritating reflections in the cabin.

Are you in the market for a super luxury sedan? Don't let perceptions influence your judgement. The new Jaguar XJ is up there with the best. I wouldn't mind having one in my garage, that's for sure.

