

# Jaguar XK COUPE

Gorgeous – and so much more.

By Basil Massey

Jaguar's advertising campaign for this all new XK coupe and convertible revolves around the word gorgeous. This does set people up to be drawn to the obvious beauty of this car – but there is so much more of a driver's car in there.

Now, the gorgeous part first. Good car design means retaining much of the design history of a marque, yet modernizing it enough to move the design on into a new era. This is never so much truer than for the high-profile and image-creating XK range of cars for illustrious Jaguar. They have managed to produce a really stunning car in the new XK, especially the coupe, which has that feline liveness stretched over a purposefully muscular form. Very jaguar (the animal, that is) indeed!

And the "so much more" part? Well, Jaguar XK coupes are supposed to ride well, corner beyond their owners' expectations and abilities, offer more than adequate performance, and not guzzle gas. The ride, which was outstanding on the previous car, is just as cossetting and refined as before, and then some.



The all-independent suspension holds the car firmly on line through the most demanding of slow or fast turns. This 300 hp car feels as quick as the previous generation XKR performance model with 400 hp. The 18.7-gallon tank also goes further than before. So what's the secret?

Well, it's the brand new all-aluminum body. The car feels light on its feet, for its size, and turns into corners with an alacrity not there before. It's the new found athleticism that impresses. Playing with the new, exceptionally good, six-speed automatic gearbox, with the Formula One-style paddle shifters, also adds to the experience. These paddle shifters nestle at a finger touch behind the wood and leather steering wheel rim. To hear the exhaust blip on down changes is very engaging, to say the least.

All that wood and leather English ambience comes at just \$74,835, with an additional \$6,000 for the convertible. You owe yourself a drive. That is the only way to know how Jaguar provides a combination of gorgeous style, luxury and performance in this new car. Be pleasantly surprised! **M**

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What can we say that isn't already obvious? A sleek, aerodynamic and cunning silhouette waits for you into waiting more. Pressing the accelerator assures you it's not a lie. 285 horses of road-grabbing power, and you see the main-mounted flat six engine. It's engineered with character as individual as you. The new Cayman. It's doing things as

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