

Baby Grand – the new Jeep Compass -by Liana Reiners

It's stylish, capable, efficient, good value for money and it carries the Jeep badge with pride. It's the new Compass, recently introduced in South Africa and set to take the compact SUV market by storm.

At 4 448 mm long, the 2011 Jeep Compass bears more than a passing resemblance to the all-new Grand Cherokee. And when compared to its predecessor, it has a new bonnet, new front fender, new fascia and new headlamps. It also features a new grille with chrome surrounds for the traditional seven slots found on all Jeep vehicles. Adding a further element of muscle, the bonnet has been enhanced with a subtle power bulge.

Viewed from the rear, obvious changes to the Compass include a new rear fascia and a new body-colour rear spoiler.

Interior upgrades include new soft touch front-door trim panels with a padded upper surface, a new centre armrest and a new steering wheel with integrated controls that allow the driver to operate the radio, cruise control, hands-free phone and other vehicle functions while keeping his or her hands on the wheel. Additional features include leather upholstery and bucket seats in the front.



Standard features abound in the new Jeep Compass and are aimed at making the journey as comfortable as possible for the driver and passengers. Niceties such as air-conditioning, power windows, power locks, power/heated exterior mirrors, keyless entry, sunscreen glass, illuminated cup holders and fold-flat rear seats are all part of the package.

Optional features include a so-called Uconnect media centre with iPod interface and power sunroof.

Of course, the new Compass is also more than capable in the ride and handling department, while it boasts more than 30 safety and security features for those times when things do go wrong. These include a standard electronic stability programme (ESP), electronic roll mitigation (ERM) and hill-start assist (with manual transmission).

In South Africa, the Jeep Compass is available in one drivetrain configuration only; the standard front-wheel drive system. It features a 2-litre engine that produces 115 kW of power and 190 Nm of torque, coupled with a five-speed manual transmission. A CVT transmission will be added to the line-up later in the year.

Priced at R269 990, the Jeep Compass is offered with a 3 year/100 000 km full maintenance plan.

