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Mazda3 named ‘Small Hatch of the Year’

in UK Car of the Year Awards

* The Mazda3 has been named ‘Small Hatch of the Year’ in the 2020 UK Car of the Year Awards.
* It joins nine other category winners on the shortlist to be named overall UK Car of the Year.
* The awards are judged by an independent group of leading British automotive journalists.

The Mazda3 has claimed the Small Hatch of the Year title in the 2020 UK Car of the Year Awards and is on the nine car shortlist for the overall UK Car of the Year title, which will be announced later this month. An independent set of awards specifically aimed at naming the best new cars on the market in the United Kingdom, the UK Car of the Year (UKCOTY) Awards are judged by 27 of Britain’s leading automotive journalists with road tests carried out on British roads.

Recognition by the UK Car of the Year judges adds to an awards tally that includes the 2020 China Car of the Year, 2019 Scottish Car of the Year, 2019 Thailand Car of the Year and 2019 Women’s World Car of the Year titles. In addition, the Mazda3 is shortlisted in the final 10 contenders for the 2020 World Car of the Year Award.

Commenting on the Mazda3’s success, UKCOTY judge Alisdair Suttie, said: “on looks alone, the Mazda3 is a class apart from its peers, yet the appeal is much more than skin deep. Superb to drive, comfortable and made to exacting standards, the Mazda3 also comes with clever engine technology that makes it both fun and frugal to drive. All of this made it an easy choice as UKCOTY’s Small Hatch of the Year”.

Fellow judge Matt Robinson, added: “the new Mazda3 has unquestionably become one of the class leaders in this sector. An interior that is second-to-none and impeccable refinement are the hallmarks of the fourth-generation Mazda3, but then it seals the deal with the incredibly clever Skyactiv-X engine, which combines diesel-like economy with petrol-esque manners.”

While Paul Hudson simply added: “looks fantastic, drives even better” and David Motton, commented that the Mazda3 is “stylish inside and out, drives well and is packed with standard equipment”.

The 27-model Mazda3 range features hatchback and saloon body styles with a choice of two mild-hybrid equipped petrol engines. Matched exclusively to front-wheel drive hatchbacks, the 122ps Skyactiv-G petrol engine features both Mazda M Hybrid and cylinder deactivation, while the award-winning 181ps Skyactiv-X Spark Controlled Combustion Ignition (SPCCI) petrol engine is offered in both front and all-wheel-drive hatchbacks. Visually distinct from the sporty hatch honoured by UKCOTY, the elegant Mazda3 Saloon has the mature and stylish look you’d expect of a premium compact saloon. Exclusively offered with the Skyactiv-X engine and front wheel drive, it adds an attractive stand out model to the award-winning Mazda3 range.

The Mazda3 was the first car to be powered by Mazda’s Skyactiv-X engine. This 2.0-litre four-cylinder 180ps engine features the highest compression ratio of any production petrol engine in the world and is also the first production petrol engine to exploit the benefits of compression ignition. Providing drivers with the free-revving performance of a petrol engine, its lean burn capabilities combined with the Mazda M Hybrid mild-hybrid system ensure outstanding fuel economy and low emissions.

Mazda UK Managing Director, Jeremy Thomson said: “the Mazda3 is already winning over customers with its quality, style and driver engagement, so recognition in the UKCOTY Awards is fantastic. In a marketplace that has seen the launch of lots of great cars across many sectors, it’s a real testament to the Mazda3 that it’s taken a category win in a segment as competitive as the family hatchback class.

I’m also delighted that the Mazda3 is a contender for the overall UK Car of the Year title, where I’m sure the innovative Skyactiv-X engine will help the Mazda3 stand out with the judges. Another example of Mazda’s convention defying powertrain innovation, it offers our customers a truly unique blend of fuel economy, low emissions and performance from a petrol engine.”

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