

A CAR FOR EVERY BUDGET

FROM THE AFFORDABLE TO THE FANCIFUL,
TRAVIS PERSAUD TESTS DRIVES THE 2012 CAR LINEUP

🔥 POWER 🌿 FUEL EFFICIENCY



🔥 148 HP 🌿 6 L/100 KM

HYUNDAI ELANTRA The new Elantra is yet another exceptional entry in Hyundai's increasingly impressive line. Its pleasing interior displays the Korean automaker's growing skill at crafting a user-friendly layout – controls are placed with thought, most notably the climate controls, which occupy the bottom-centre column in a unique horseshoe pattern. And it's a surprisingly peppy car that comes in a stylish body that stands out against its competition. **Zoomer Bonus:** Stylish design with a no-nonsense sticker price. **Starts at:** \$15,849.



🔥 160 HP 🌿 6.7 L/100 KM

FORD FOCUS Sitting on a brand new chassis with tighter suspension, the Focus adds a sporty dimension that distinguishes it from other compact vehicles. From its streaking lines that run up the hood to the angled controls inside, everything about this car puts an emphasis on active. It handles exceptionally well, bending around turns with little body roll, and doesn't fight you when you really need to go. **Zoomer Bonus:** Available Parking Technology package includes rearview camera, front parking sensors and Active Park Assist. **Starts at:** \$15,999.



🔥 148HP 🌿 6.6 L/100 KM

SUBARU IMPREZA Redesigned with mass appeal in mind, the Impreza offers the rugged performance but with a refined look. "Hawk-eye" headlamps, sharp aerodynamic lines and beefy fenders around the wheels make this compact jump out. Inside, there's more room for passengers riding in the back, more than enough legroom upfront and a padded cabin with soft-touch materials that create a relaxing ambiance. **Zoomer Bonus:** Subaru's excellent full-time symmetrical AWD system is ideal for our four-season climate. **Starts at:** \$19,995.



🔥 174 HP 🌿 8.8 L/100 KM

CHEVROLET ORLANDO The Orlando earns its place alongside the Mazda5, Kia Rondo and the forthcoming Ford C-Max in the expanding segment of multi-purpose vehicles. With room for the kids and grandkids, this slim seven-seater is a pleasure to drive, with light, responsive steering. Inside, it's relatively easy to access the backbench and the theatre-style tier of the three rows ensures better sightlines. **Zoomer Bonus:** Snowbirds can flaunt this family mover over all their friends down south – the Orlando isn't available in the U.S. **Starts at:** \$19,995. →



2.5 L 5-CYLINDER: 🔥 170 HP 🌿 8.3 L/100 KM
2.0 L 4-CYLINDER TURBO: 🔥 200 HP 🌿 8.2 L/100 KM

VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE The classic Bug is new – once again. Sculpted and refined, the Beetle is now ready for the 21st century. This year, its silhouette is not as symmetrical as previous generations and it has a bigger back end that gives it a more masculine feel. It's a refreshed look that's somehow both contemporary and timeless. Team it up with VW's superb DSG transmission (manual is standard) and you have a smooth-shifting, ultra chic car that's suitable for just about any situation. **Zoomer Bonus:** An iconic vehicle that never seems to go out of style. **Starts at:** \$21,975.



2.4 L 4-CYLINDER: 🔥 200 HP 🌿 7.3 L/100 KM
2.0 L TURBO: 🔥 274 HP 🌿 7.5 L/100 KM

KIA OPTIMA Kia continues its stellar run of phenomenal designs with the brand new Optima. Both engines deliver streamlined power, and the interior is polished with an expert fit and finish. From its meshed grille, 18-inch sport wheels (SX model) and steep sloping backend, the Optima has surprisingly become a real head-turner: I received more inquisitive stares while driving this vehicle than I did while testing the Porsche Panamera – seriously. **Zoomer Bonus:** Creature comforts such as heated seats and power lumbar driver's seat are standard – no need to option up for them. **Starts at:** \$21,995.



2.5 L 4-CYLINDER: 🔥 178 HP 🌿 7 L/100 KM
3.5 L V6: 🔥 268 HP 🌿 8.2 L/100 KM

TOYOTA CAMRY The seventh-generation of Toyota's enormously successful Camry line once again delivers the goods – a consistently reliable family sedan built with practicality in mind. And this year, it comes with a nice new price tag – \$1,600 cheaper than the outgoing model. Although the 2.5 L four-cylinder engine is a bit timid, it is stingy on fuel and will reduce your visits to the gas station. **Zoomer Bonus:** If you're a Camry fan but would like to drive a car with a bit more burn, the V6 available on the SE and XLE trims bumps up the power by 90 HP. **Starts at:** \$23,700.



3.6 L V6: 🔥 292 HP 🌿 7 L/100 KM
5.7 L V8: 🔥 363 HP 🌿 10.8 L/100 KM
6.4 L V8: 🔥 470 HP 🌿 11.9 L/100 KM

CHRYSLER 300 Although this year's 300 returns with only minor design changes from 2011, it's my first chance to show some love for Chrysler's old-school inspired sedan. The 300's formerly hard edges have been softened on the new model, creating a muscle car that appeals to the masses. It's a change we don't mind one bit. The new eight-speed transmission helps with fuel savings (thank goodness!), and Chrysler's updated instrument panel is a cinch to command. **Zoomer Bonus:** The smaller pillars mean improved visibility, an upgrade over the previous model. **Starts at:** \$32,495.



🔥 240 HP 🌿 8.9 L/100 KM

RANGE ROVER EVOQUE Rounded edges and sporty lines – the Evoque is a breath of fresh air from the British-based Land Rover car company. Its modern look and welcoming sticker price will certainly attract those who have previously shied away from the automaker's other offerings. The turbocharged engine gives all the power you will ever need navigating the jungle of city traffic. And even with the sleek, sloping roofline, there's ample room in the back. **Zoomer Bonus:** Gets you into the driver's seat of a premium brand without the premium price. **Starts at:** \$46,995.



🔥 335 HP 🌿 9.8 L/100 KM

BMW M1 Wow! Take the engine of BMW's 335i and stick it in a shorter body: that's essentially the M1. And it's a rocket. The twin-turbo wants to go and go fast – zero to 100 in 4.9 seconds. Open the door and you'll be treated to swanky leather interior and enough room and comfort to make the daily commute a bit more tolerable. But to really experience the merits of this BMW, we suggest you air it out on a scenic country road. **Zoomer Bonus:** The driving experience you'd expect from an M badge in a smaller more accessible package. **Starts at:** \$53,600.



🔥 6.4 L V-8: 470 HP 🌿 14.3 L/100 KM

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE SRT8 Watch out. Those two words should be emblazoned onto the side of this beast. Packing 470 HP, this massive SUV will fly when pushed, its Hemi engine growling the whole way. Zero to 100 in five seconds? You bet. While a high-powered BMW or Mercedes-Benz SUV may offer status and style, the Grand Cherokee is geared to the driver who wants to feel alive when they stomp the gas pedal. **Zoomer Bonus:** Numerous crash-avoiding safety features including blind-spot, cross-path and forward collision monitoring systems. **Starts at:** \$54,995.



🔥 240 HP 🌿 8.3 L/100 KM

MERCEDES-BENZ S350 BLUETEC For those with a wide open budget, the S350 offers powerful and smooth highway cruising, an economical diesel engine and cabin refinement that few vehicles can match. This Mercedes-Benz offers top-notch performance without neglecting efficiency and handling. Its large body manoeuvres turns and corners like a smaller car, and the clean diesel means you'll enjoy whizzing past gas stations in its supremely quiet and cushy cabin. **Zoomer Bonus:** A six-figure vehicle that delivers on every promise of comfort, performance and prestige. **Starts at:** \$109,900. 🚩