



# Review of the Renault 5



**By Fraser Lucas**

## LOOKS

The Renault 5 is right up there as one of the great small car icons, and if there's anything its electric revival proves, it's that it's utterly timeless. The squarish details at the front and sharply sloping rear, long,

tail lights grant an instantly recognisable silhouette. The new little details, such as the front lamps on the bumper and the charge indicator on the bonnet. The charm is slathered all over the car. There's a vibrant energy to it, something so many electric vehicles severely lack as they pursue the clean minimalism of a dentist's waiting room.

## HANDLING AND PERFORMANCE

Beneath the plucky appearances, there lies some well-rounded engineering. Renault has gained a lot of experience with battery powered cars, having started out a fair bit earlier than most manufacturers, and that's produced some marvellous results behind the wheel. The steering is nimble, and while the 5 is in its element around town, the refinement is noticeably calm. Most impressively, despite all that battery weight, it feels lightweight and springy. Speaking of battery, there are two choices, one with 120 BHP and one with 150 BHP. The less potent option gets a range of 193 miles, while its powerful brother can go on for 252 miles.

## PRACTICALITY

Sitting inside shows they put just as much care into designing as they did outside. Compare it with the Renault 5 of old and you can see little similarities around the dash. In addition, it's a very bright and sunny place to be. Quite literally, if you get in the yellow interior trim. Despite the classical design, a lot of high tech can be found. The display and infotainment screen are all part of the same panel (similar to what Vauxhall does) for a seamless look, while physical buttons ensure there's still some common sense involved rather than having you delve into computer sub-menus. For space, you won't feel too hemmed in, despite the small size.

## COST

Prices start at £22,995 for the smaller battery, which can cost up to £26,995. For the more powerful battery, it'll cost from £26,995 to £29,995. Such pricing gives the 5 a competitive edge, especially with the kit you get onboard. All cars have a heat pump, automatic air-con and even an AI assistant to help with preferences and info.

## VERDICT

"Passion" isn't a word often given to the development of small cars, but the 5 is bursting with the stuff. Careful thought has been put into everything, top to bottom, which shows how serious Renault is about this as a king-of-the-hill type of car. With how flooded the market is, electric car releases lack a bit of fanfare now. But make no mistake, this lives up to being one of the most exciting releases of the year.