



Review of the Alfa Romeo Junior



By Fraser Lucas

LOOKS

Alfa Romeo has been trying new ideas with the way it presents its cars in recent years. The Junior represents another change of direction that takes a few more risks.

The front grill has been slightly altered, bearing a cut out of the familiar logo, and because it's shorter, you no longer see that trademark license plate to the side Alfas have possessed for donkey's years. That said, the Italian charm remains. The front lamps feeding into the grill and clover-shaped rims help add personality. The rear end even has similar boomerang lights like an old Maserati.

HANDLING AND PERFORMANCE

Despite that tall body, there is no wobbly-wobbly body roll to be found. The firm suspension and intuitive steering allow for some fun to be had, though comfort has not been sacrificed. Utilising Alfa's DNA drive system, you can switch between something more sporty, neutral or efficient. This means you can tailor its behaviour depending on the conditions. For power, you can either have the petrol Ibrida, delivering 136 BHP from a 1.2 mild-hybrid, or the Elettrica, bearing a battery with either 154 or 278 BHP. The latter Elettrica, dubbed the

Veloce, benefits from extra engineering boosts, such as a limited-slip diff to make it a gem in maximising Alfa's already admirable efforts building the Junior as a driver's car.

PRACTICALITY

As the smallest Alfa, you do notice it's a bit snug in some parts. The boot is big enough and you'll feel at home up front, but rear space is small. Cabin design is suitably chic and Italian in appearance, though there is a lack of premium material involved. You do get physical buttons, though, which is only a positive during the advent of minimalism.

COST

The Ibrida costs from £28,100, while the Elettrica is priced from £33,905 to £38,905. The Veloce tops them at £42,305. Parking sensors, rain-sensing wipers and adaptive cruise control, among others, leave it well equipped for something that stands as surprisingly well priced for a premium badge. A three-year, unlimited mileage warranty is bundled with the Junior as well.

VERDICT

Alfa has almost been under the radar with building a solid line-up of cars. The Giulia worked, the Tonale worked, and the Junior continues the charge. There are some aspects that are different to your usual, pure-blooded Alfa Romeo, but clearly there has been a lot of hard work put into making this a fun and stylish little car.