

Refined *executive estates*

Estate cars are perfect for anyone in business looking for a bit of additional room over a normal saloon or hatchback. Be it a luxurious executive model or an all round business-cum-family focused limo, these vehicles offer comfort, a hushed cabin, pleasing handling, a respectable range of engines and, above all, stacks of space.



New Ford Vignale
Mondeo Estate

New Ford Vignale Mondeo Estate

The Mondeo Vignale is the first vehicle to be introduced as part of Ford's luxury new brand name.

Available as an estate, the Vignale delivers superior refinement with the European debut of Ford's Active Noise Cancellation technology, and a quilted and tuxedo-stitched leather interior.

Powerful and fuel efficient powertrains include a 210PS Bi-turbo 2.0-litre TDCi diesel, 240PS EcoBoost petrol, and 187PS petrol-electric hybrid. Intelligent All-Wheel Drive, which automatically enhances traction and road-holding, is also available.

The Vignale Mondeo delivers a

whisper-quiet, smooth and comfortable ride using sophisticated technologies and an advanced chassis structure. Its load area is simply monstrous, too.

Its Active Noise Cancellation system enhances finesse; using cabin microphones, it is able to monitor engine noise in the interior. Advanced audio technology directs opposing sound waves through the audio system to cancel out engine noise and improve cabin ambience.

The Vignale's massive interior also features acoustic glass to help reduce wind noise to levels normally experienced only in the premium segment.

Comfort can be optimised by Multi-Contour Seats with Active Motion

massage function. Designed to reduce muscle fatigue, particularly during longer journeys, the chairs use a system of eleven inflatable cushions to deliver a massaging effect for thighs and lower back.

Price from £29,045

Volvo V70 D4 SE Lux (2014 on)

The latest V70 isn't just a practical estate; it's good to drive – especially with an automatic gearbox.

Indeed, this could be the ultimate family-cum-business car. It offers first-class comfort, combined with an impressive 575 litres of load space. As well as integrated child seats, the rear

Volvo V70



seatbacks can be folded down in three 40/20/40 segments, giving more options to configure extra room.

What's particularly reassuring about the V70's drive is its IntelliSafe technology – Volvo's blanket name for all-active safety systems. One of the best gadgets is Pedestrian Detection, which watches out for people walking into the car's path and automatically puts on the anchors if there's an impending impact.

The V70 in diesel guise is not an inefficient motor to run. It'll do over 68.9mpg and it emits just 111 CO₂ (g/km).

Price £34,720

New Skoda Superb

Available as an estate or hatchback, the all-new Superb has always been a major steal.

The vehicle has rear seat legroom many executive limousines can't keep pace with – and an immense load area.

Right hand drive Skoda Superbs come with trim levels we're already familiar with, and there are five engines - the most ubiquitous likely to be the 148bhp 2.0-litre diesel with a six-speed manual gearbox.

Under full acceleration there's barely any diesel clatter, and the car has oodles of 'oomph' on the motorway. The fresh Superb is just as talented at low speed, floating over lumps and bumps in town or along deserted country lanes. Pace is perceptibly more composed than that of the outgoing car.

The 2015 Skoda Superb can lurch a little through twisting roads, but it's a big car, so it's not the sort of motor you expect to chuck around corners. That said; the steering is direct, with excellent weighting and the car is always comfortable.

The Skoda badge shouldn't put anyone off this car because this handsome new Superb is a top company car choice and, for private buyers, it looks like it will hold on to its value well.

Price £18,640 - £34,505

New Skoda Superb

