



It is not every day that a vehicle comes around that ticks so many boxes all at the same time and truth be told is hard to believe something like it exists. For those seeking the ultimate thrill of BMW's renowned M performance, comfort of a leather-clad interior and specialist driving dynamics, and the capabilities of an SUV, the BMW X5 M is one such vehicle that does exactly that – and so much more.

The SUV market is an interesting one. It ranges from businessmen to soccer moms, hip youths and those who enjoy the off road terrain. But vehicle manufacturers would do well to not discount those who still seek the exhilaration of a sports vehicle, but prefer the higher ride, safety and space. The X5 M combines all of this in perfect combinations of sunk-in-seat acceleration and stylish comfort.

An aggressive-looking, modern and fresh exterior, with the typical BMW attributes of the oversized kidney grille and air inlets, double halogen lights and 'L' shape rear lights, the X5 M is typically SAV. The double contours up and over the bonnet, accented wheel arches and twin exhausts give the vehicle a starkly imposing look, revealing a taste of its brut performance simply through a glance. On the inside, the trademark BMW M styling offers passengers and driver alike the ultimate in sporty comfort, space and functionality. The specialised M-Sport steering wheel is a great addition; giving the driver the immediate sense they are in control of a formidable piece of engineering.

To say the newly developed engine of the new BMW X5 M has a thunderous attitude would be something of an understatement.

Powered by a 4.4-litre V8 engine with M TwinPower Turbo technology with High Precision Direct Petrol Injection and VALVETRONIC, torque and output are pushed to magnificent levels. This unrivalled combination ensures that a strong wave of torque is maintained from low revs and allows the engine to impress with its direct and rapid responses, vivacious appetite for revs, linear power delivery and customary M soundtrack. The result is 423kW, four percent higher than its predecessor, with peak torque of 750 Nm, catapulting the X5 M to 100 km/h from standstill in just 4.2 seconds with a top speed of 250 km/h, electronically limited of course.

The outstanding efficiency of the new M TwinPower Turbo engine is illustrated by its fuel consumption and emissions levels of 11.1 litres per 100 km and 258 g/km of CO2 respectively, representing an improvement of more than 20 percent over its predecessor. To put this perspective, this means that the range of the X5 M on a single tank of fuel has increased by 26 percent to 765 kilometres.

BMW has done very well to create a vehicle for this very hungry market that is so brilliant, and yet better for the environment and more economical than the previous generation. For those seeking a thrill of gargantuan proportions, that comes with all of the comforts, safety attributes and peace of mind BMW is so solidly known for, the X5 M is a vehicle that can blow the hair back of those with a need for speed, but can double as a child-to-school-and-back chariot equally as stylishly. It sets the benchmark in the performance SUV market, both in terms of price and capability. ■ Kevin Taylor

THE PRECIPICE WHERE POWER AND BEAUTY COLLIDE

BMW pioneered the Sports Activity Vehicle (SAV) market with their original X5 built in 1999. Today, their latest X5 M is setting the pace for high-performance SAVs, perfectly combining robustness, exclusivity, agility and everyday driving capability.

Visit www.bmw.co.za for more information.

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