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Volvo XC40 defies the 'bandwagon' demonisation of diesel to be named What Car? Car of the Year 2018.

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What Car? crowns Volvo XC40 D4 AWD as its Car of the Year in 40th anniversary Awards

- As well as winning Volvo's first ever overall Car of the Year Award, XC40 takes top prize in new Family SUV category
- Elsewhere, What Car? reader favourite, the Honda Civic, is crowned best overall car due to be launched in 2018
- Inaugural True MPG Award goes to Suzuki Ignis, which averages almost 60 mpg in real-world driving conditions
- Full list of winners live at whatcar.com/awards
- What Car? launches What Fuel? widget to advise consumers on whether a diesel, petrol or electrified car best suits their needs

What Car? has named the new Volvo XC40 its Car of the Year for 2018 during its 40th



anniversary awards ceremony, held in association with Warranty Direct on Tuesday 23 January at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane.

The D4 diesel version of the XC40 beat all the other category winners on the night to take Volvo's first ever overall What Car? Car of the Year Award.

As well as securing this title, the XC40 was named Family SUV of the Year - a new category for 2018 that was added in response to the huge demand for these high-riding machines; What Car? already had Small, Large and Luxury SUV categories.

What Car? editor Steve Huntingford said: "The SUV segment is incredibly competitive, so it's testament to the brilliance of the XC40 that it stands out. With its mix of comfort and quality, safety and style, it excels in all the areas that are important to buyers.

"Of course, we were very aware that some people would still consider the XC40 a controversial choice due to the fact the best engine in the range is a diesel. However, our independent True MPG tests prove that this latest engine emits less NOx than plenty of petrols, while offering the low CO2 that made diesels so popular in the first place.

"Our judging panel refused to be swayed by the anti-diesel hysteria coming from politicians and some of the mainstream press and instead made their decision based purely on the merits of the cars. Our belief is that for many car buyers diesel remains the right economic and environmental choice - and for those that it doesn't suit, a petrol or electrified alternative is available.

"The fact is the Volvo XC40 is a stunning achievement and proves to car buyers everywhere that diesels are definitely not dead."

In recognition of this, What Car? has launched a new What Fuel? widget on its website, helping consumers to work out if a diesel car is the right choice for their lifestyle.

Simon Ackers, CEO of Warranty Direct, added: "The What Car? Awards is one of the most



celebrated events in the motoring calendar. We are proud to be headline sponsors for the sixth year running and to continue working with a partner whose values so prominently reflect our own.

“The awards recognise the outstanding achievements of individual car manufacturers, creating invaluable insight and expert advice for consumers across the country.”

Volvo is the 19th car manufacturer to win an overall What Car? Car of the Year Award since the inception of the prize in 1978.

Jon Wakefield, Managing Director of Volvo Car UK, said: “Winning the overall Car of the Year Award is fantastic – not just for everyone here in the UK, but for Volvo as a global company. The XC40 perfectly showcases the bold new direction Volvo is taking, and brings our class- leading connectivity, semi-autonomous drive technology and innovative storage solutions to the premium family SUV market.

“We are immensely proud of the XC40, and for the experts at What Car? to award it their ultimate accolade is the perfect start to what will be a hugely significant year for Volvo.”

The XC40 wasn't the only SUV launched in 2017 to make a big impression on the judges. SEAT'S latest offering, the Arona, took the Small SUV of the Year prize, sponsored by CAP HPI, while the Peugeot 5008 was named Large SUV of the Year.

Audi also had a successful night, scooping three awards: Executive Car of the Year with the A4, Coupé of the Year with the TT, and Luxury SUV of the Year with the Q7.

What Car? readers took the opportunity to voice their thoughts on the year ahead, voting Jaguar's first electric car, the I-pace, the most exciting new car due to be launched in 2018.

And reflecting What Car?'s status as a consumer champion, a new True MPG Award was introduced this year and given to the Suzuki Ignis – the most efficient car the title has ever tested, with an average of 59.6 mpg in real-world driving conditions.



Volvo took another trophy home, after its XC60 won the Safety Award, while Tesla was handed the Technology Award for blazing a trail in the automotive industry with its forward-thinking, innovative mind-set.

For more information on the overall Car of the Year for 2018 and the full list of award winners, visit: whatcar.com/awards

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2018 WINNERS LIST

CITY CAR

Less than £9,500 – Suzuki Celerio 1.0 SZ2

£9,500 – £11,000 – Skoda Citigo 1.0 60 SE 5dr

More than £11,000 – Kia Picanto 1.25 '3'

WINNER – Kia Picanto 1.25 '3'

SMALL CAR

Less than £12,000 – Dacia Sandero 0.9 TCe Ambiance

£12,000 – £20,000 – Seat Ibiza 1.0 TSI 95 FR

More than £20,000 – Mini 5-Door Hatchback 1.5T Cooper Chili Media XL

WINNER – SEAT Ibiza 1.0 TSI 95 FR

FAMILY CAR

Less than £18,000 – Seat Leon 1.2 TSI SE Dynamic Technology



£18,000-£22,000 - Skoda Octavia 1.5 TSI 150 SE L

More than £22,000 - Audi A3 Sportback 1.5 TFSI 150 Sport

WINNER - Skoda Octavia 1.5 TSI 150 SE L

SMALL SUV

Less than £16,000 - Suzuki Vitara 1.6 SZ4

£16,000 - £20,000 - Seat Arona 1.0 TSI 95 SE Technology

More than £20,000 - Audi Q2 1.4 TFSI 150

WINNER - Seat Arona 1.0 TSI 95 SE Technology

FAMILY SUV

Less than £20,000 - Seat Ateca 1.0 TSI Ecomotive 115 S

£20,000 - £30,000 - Skoda Karoq 1.5 TSI 150 SE L

More than £30,000 - Volvo XC40 D4 R Design

WINNER - Volvo XC40 D4 R Design

LARGE SUV

Less than £27,000 - Peugeot 5008 1.2 Puretech 130 Allure

£27,000-£35,000 - Mazda CX-5 2.2



Skyactiv-D 2WD Sport Nav

More than £35,000 - Audi Q5 2.0 TDI quattro Sport

WINNER - Peugeot 5008 1.2 Puretech 130 Allure

LUXURY SUV

Less than £60,000 - Audi Q7 3.0 TDI 272 quattro S Line

£60,000-£100,000 - Land Rover Discovery Td6 HSE Luxury

More than £100,000 - Bentley Bentayga V8 diesel

WINNER - Audi Q7 3.0 TDI quattro 272 S Line

MPV

Less than £20,000 - Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 1.4 140 Turbo Design

£20,000 - £27,000 - Volkswagen Touran 1.6 TDI 115 SE

More than £27,000 - Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi 150 Zetec

WINNER - Volkswagen Touran 1.6 TDI 115 SE

ESTATE CAR

Less than £18,000 - Skoda Fabia Estate 1.0 TSI 95 SE

£18,000 - £25,000 - Skoda Superb Estate 2.0 TDI 150 SE Technology



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More than £25,000 - BMW 5 Series Touring 520d SE

WINNER - Skoda Superb Estate 2.0 TDI 150 SE Technology

HOT HATCH

Less than £20,000 - Ford Fiesta 1.0T Ecoboost 140 ST-line 3dr

£20,000 - £30,000 - Hyundai i30N

More than £30,000 - Honda Civic Type R GT

WINNER - Honda Civic Type R GT

CONVERTIBLE

Less than £25,000 - Mazda MX-5 2.0 SE-L Nav

£25,000 - £35,000 - Audi A3 Cabriolet 1.5 TFSI Sport

More than £35,000 - Audi A5 Cabriolet 2.0 TDI 190 Sport

WINNER - Mazda MX-5 2.0 SE-L Nav

COUPÉ

Less than £30,000 - Audi TT 1.8 TFSI Sport

£30,000 - £50,000 - Audi A5 Coupé 3.0 TDI quattro Sport

More than £50,000 - Aston Martin DB11 V8



WINNER – Audi TT 1.8 TFSI Sport

SPORTS AND PERFORMANCE CAR

Less than £50,000 – Porsche Cayman 2.0 litre

£50,000 – £100,000 – Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio

More than £100,000 – McLaren 540C

WINNER – Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio

ELECTRIC CAR

Less than £20,000 – Renault Zoe Q90 Z.E. 40 Dynamique Nav

£20,000 – £40,000 – Nissan Leaf N-Connecta

More than £40,000 – Tesla Model S 75D

WINNER – Nissan Leaf N-Connecta

HYBRID

Less than £25,000 – Hyundai Ioniq Hybrid Premium

£25,000 – £35,000 – Volkswagen Passat GTE Advance

More than £35,000 – Audi Q7 E-tron

WINNER – Hyundai Ioniq Hybrid Premium



EXECUTIVE CAR

Less than £25,000 - Skoda Superb 2.0 TDI 150 SE Technology

£25,000 - £35,000 - Audi A4 2.0 TDI 190 Ultra Sport S Tronic

More than £35,000 - Kia Stinger GT-S

WINNER - Audi A4 2.0 TDI 190 Ultra Sport S Tronic

LUXURY CAR

Less than £50,000 - BMW 5 Series 520d SE

£50,000 - £100,000 - Audi A8 50 TDI Long Wheelbase

More than £100,000 - Rolls-Royce Ghost EWB

WINNER - BMW 5 Series 520d SE

TRUE MPG AWARD

WINNER: Suzuki Ignis

COMMENDED: Mazda CX-5 2.2 Skyactiv-D 2WD

COMMENDED: Toyota Yaris Hybrid

READER AWARD

WINNER: Jaguar I-Pace



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COMMENDED: Citroen C5 Aircross

COMMENDED: Audi E-Tron

SAFETY AWARD

WINNER: Volvo XC60

COMMENDED: Subaru XV

COMMENDED: Volkswagen T-Roc

TECHNOLOGY AWARD

WINNER: Tesla

COMMENDED: Mercedes-Benz S500

COMMENDED: Nissan Leaf two-way charging

CAR OF THE YEAR

Volvo XC40 D4 R Design