

Automobile

ALL STARS

2005

For the eighteenth year in a row, AUTOMOBILE MAGAZINE's worldwide conglomerate of experts has chosen the superstars of the automotive firmament. Universal Studios in Los Angeles seemed a suitably glamorous nighttime backdrop for the 2005 AUTOMOBILE MAGAZINE All-Stars photo call.

The dream team is even more exclusive this year: we've pared down the All-Stars award categories from fourteen to nine, making the competition absolutely ferocious. Imagine the audacity of choosing just one sport-utility vehicle from a field of a million billion candidates! A win is that much sweeter, yes?

As usual, we've also chosen the most significant design and technology for the year, picked



FAMILY CAR
Subaru Legacy

seven All-Star automotive movers and shakers, and, after an agonizing, hand-wringing, bun-throwing evening, picked our big winner, the 2005 Automobile of the Year.

Read on.

We're sure we're absolutely correct on all counts.

Thanks to Universal Studios Hollywood for use of the theme park for All-Stars photography.

Character seems as scarce in this category as honesty is in politics, but the Subaru Legacy sedan and wagon are brimming with it. The Legacy looks almost as generic as a Honda Accord or a Mazda 6, but as soon as you get into the driver's seat, it's apparent that this is a high-quality item, with near-flawless fit and finish. The base 168-hp four-cylinder boxer engine makes a wonderful raspy growl and has a touch more power and torque than its chief rivals. It also has a totally different character from the engines in the rest of the family-sedan herd. The Legacy wins out even over the excellent Mazda because it can be all things to all people: a refined, high-quality, comfortable freeway cruiser and a sporty back-roads car, with fine steering and brakes and a sweet shifter. The 250-hp GT sedan and wagon are even more compelling, but they are priced like luxury cars. In fact, the Legacy's only weakness is that the GT is more expensive than its rivals—but it feels more expensive, too.



ROAD & TRAVEL

M A G A Z I N E

2005 - 9th Annual



INTERNATIONAL CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

by Martha Hinds

MOST DEPENDABLE - SEDAN OF THE YEAR 2005 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i

Things we can truly count on sometimes can seem fewer than the fingers on one hand. Our neighbor's help when we need support from a friend. A guaranteed airplane seat when we finally have a boarding pass in hand. In the halo extension of everyday comfort zones, we simply must recall one stalwart partner as we journey on down the road. What could be more dependable than our mainstay sedan.

In keeping with the trust issue, we can't imagine a more reliant traveling companion than Subaru's fully redesigned Legacy 2.5i sedan. It's a road gobbling tourer with the guts to venture beyond where sensibility tells us we should go (off to work in the middle of a snowstorm), and the confidence to depend on it to get us back safely to square one. A tad longer than previous generations, it adds to its road-hugging, all-wheel-drive authority with a stiffer, high strength unitized body structure, more aluminum for less



weight, and advanced assembly techniques that blend it into a whole.

A revised 2.5 liter 4-banger, pours out 168 horsepower, in familiar sidewise "boxer" configuration (think of sparring partners jabbing their fists at each other). Its sporty, low-forward appearance, sitting solidly on 17-inch alloy wheels -- go-anywhere attitude clearly evident -- gives new meaning to the term wedgy. Make that wedgy with an edge.



WEIGHT
CENTER OF GRAVITY
0-60 MPH IN 5.9 SECONDS
POWER
WAGON
ANTE
CORNERS BETTER THAN
GERMAN ENGINEERS

IN DENIAL

LOWERED

FASTER THAN
PORSCHE BOXSTER
AUDI A6 AVANT
BMW 530I
AUDI TT QUATTRO

AUDI TT QUATTRO
BMW 330XI

REINVENTED

UPPED

The all-new 2005 Subaru Legacy. The outstanding traction, balance and control of the Subaru Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive System, standard. The power of a 250-hp, turbocharged boxer engine. A completely redesigned interior. Leather upholstery. Momo®-designed steering wheel with SPORTSHIFT 5-speed automatic transmission controls. Power dual moonroof. Power seats. Remote rear gate release. And dual-zone automatic climate control. The Subaru Legacy. It's a sports car disguised as a wagon. For more information on the Car of the Year in Japan™, see a dealer for a test-drive, visit subaru.com or call 1-800-WANT-AWD.

0-60 mph and dry-cornering comparisons based on USAC-certified testing results on the '05 Legacy GT Wagon (MT), '04 Porsche Boxster (MT), '04 Audi A6 Avant (AT), '04 BMW 530i (MT), '04 Audi TT Quattro (MT) and BMW 330xi (MT). '2003-2004 Car of the Year Japan. GT Limited featured. The ABC's of Safety: Air bags. Buckle up. Children in backseat.