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Six wins for ŠKODA in 2017 Best Cars by 'What Car?'

- › New ŠKODA KODIAQ winner of large-SUV category
- › ŠKODA FABIA receives 'Best small car of the year' title
- › ŠKODA SUPERB COMBI awarded 'Best Back-to-Back estate'
- › ŠKODA CITIGO, ŠKODA FABIA COMBI and ŠKODA SUPERB receive prizes for best value for money

Mladá Boleslav / Milton Keynes, 12 January 2017 – Successful start to the new year for ŠKODA: In selecting the Best Cars of 2017, conducted by British magazine 'What Car?', the Czech carmaker was victorious in three categories, thus becoming the most successful brand in one of the most prestigious British car awards. The ŠKODA models KODIAQ, FABIA and SUPERB COMBI won the highest awards in their respective classes. The success was rounded off with the ŠKODA CITIGO, ŠKODA FABIA COMBI and ŠKODA SUPERB receiving the title of 'Best Value for Money' in their respective segments.

"The 'What Car?' awards are a testament to the entire ŠKODA team. For us, these honours are both an affirmation and motivation. They show that we have taken the right path in expanding, modernizing and emotionalizing our model range," says ŠKODA CEO Bernhard Maier, adding: "At the same time, our vehicles' success underscores the increasing appeal of our brand in the international markets. ŠKODA has performed particularly well in the UK over the last few years. In 2016 alone, we grew by 7.3% to over 80,000 car deliveries, making this our fourth largest market in the world."

2017 could not have got off to a better start for ŠKODA. With three class victories and three value-for-money awards, the Czech car manufacturer was the big winner at the 2017 Best Cars award ceremony held by British automobile magazine 'What Car?' at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

"Great Sports Utility Vehicle"

By winning the award for Best Large SUV, the new ŠKODA KODIAQ received one of the most important European automotive awards shortly before its market launch.

"We were looking forward to ŠKODA's first large SUV with great anticipation. Today, one thing is certain: the ŠKODA KODIAQ did not disappoint the judges. It is a fantastic sport utility vehicle with seven seats, all-wheel drive, a powerful diesel engine, a generous array of features – and all of that at an amazing price," said Steve Huntingford, editor of What Car?.

With a length of 4.70m, up to seven seats and the largest boot in its class, the ŠKODA KODIAQ is the Czech carmaker's first large SUV. ŠKODA's latest model will be launched successively on the international markets from February. The SUV features stylish





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designs, exceptional space, practical intelligence and innovative technologies that would usually only be found in higher vehicle classes. The ŠKODA KODIAQ marks the beginning of ŠKODA's broad-based SUV campaign. Five drivetrains – two TDI engines and three TSI engines – form the engine range at the launch of the ŠKODA KODIAQ. Their displacement values range from 1.4 to 2.0 l, with outputs ranging from 92 kW (125 hp) to 140 kW (190 hp).

"The car to beat"

For the third time in a row, the ŠKODA FABIA has been named 'Best Small Car' at the What Car? awards. "In the last twelve months, a number of new small cars have been released – but the ŠKODA FABIA is still the car to beat," said What Car? editor Huntingford. "The ŠKODA FABIA can be manoeuvred easily and safely in the city, but even on country roads and motorways it is more comfortable and refined than many considerably larger vehicles. The car doesn't just stand out from the competition thanks to its impressive workmanship and the high level of safety but also owing to a number of features in the interior and its distinct practicality," added Huntingford.

The current ŠKODA FABIA is now the third generation of the model on the market. It is hallmarked by its dynamic and emotive design language and sporty proportions. The small car is equipped with numerous safety, comfort and infotainment systems that are otherwise reserved for higher classes. There are four petrol engines and two diesel drivetrains available for the ŠKODA FABIA, ranging from 44 kW (60 hp) to 81 kW (110 hp). The ŠKODA FABIA is the Czech automobile manufacturer's third bestselling model after the ŠKODA OCTAVIA and ŠKODA RAPID.

"Leading its segment"

The ŠKODA SUPERB COMBI also defended its title from last year at this year's Best Cars selection. Chief Editor Huntingford reiterates the good reasons stated by the expert panel: "The ŠKODA SUPERB COMBI is still leading the way in its segment. Its performance, amount of space and comfort are crucial factors in that. Then there is its practicality and – as with all ŠKODA models – the excellent value for money. No other vehicle offers a similarly phenomenal combination."

The ŠKODA SUPERB COMBI embodies the company's core values in its current version and is more spacious, practical and clever than ever before. With the largest interior and largest boot in its class, the five-door model sports a dynamic, elegant and emotional design. The third generation of ŠKODA's flagship is characterized by a high level of comfort, comprehensive safety features, high functionality and good price/performance ratio. Five petrol engines and three diesel engines with an output between 92 kW (125 hp) and 206 kW (280 hp) are available.

Best value for money

In addition to the three class victories, ŠKODA also won three categories for best value for money in the 'What Car?' awards. The ŠKODA CITIGO in the 'City Car' category, the





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ŠKODA FABIA COMBI in the 'Estates up to £18,000' and the ŠKODA SUPERB in the 'Executive Cars up to £25,000'.

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ŠKODA AUTO

- › is one of the longest-established vehicle manufacturers in the world. The company was founded in 1895 – during the pioneering days of the automobile. The company's headquarters remain in Mladá Boleslav.
- › currently offers the following model series: CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, YETI as well as the KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2016, delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- › has been part of Volkswagen Group since 1991, one of the most successful car manufacturers in the world. ŠKODA, in association with the Group, independently manufactures and develops vehicles as well as components such as engines and gear transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; produces in China, Russia, Slovakia and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 26,600 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

