

Un très bon choix dans la gamme C3*

The Citroën C3 1.4i 75 VTR+ impresses on many levels and, with its French flair, coupled with a special price of just £11,495 (until the end of September), is a tempting proposition compared to more mundane opposition.



For: Airy cabin, due to excellent 'Zenith' panoramic windscreen, good driving position, good build-quality, well-equipped, huge boot, competitively priced.

Against: Clutch pedal a bit too soft, electronic stability control is a £330 option.

*A very good choice in the small-car range

Performance:

The 1.4i 75ps engine, developed in conjunction with BMW, had a pleasant rasp, with enough 'go' to cope comfortably with motorway/dual carriageway work. In terms of the range, the 1.4i 75ps sits somewhere in the middle: you would probably prefer either a VTi 90/120, or an HDi diesel engine, if doing a high motorway mileage.



Ride and handling:

Citroën have something of a reputation for producing cars with excellent suspensions, and the C3 did not disappoint: the car rode the various road surfaces very well. Steering feedback was good, and there was very little body-roll through corners, despite the car's bubble shape. Low speed-manoeuving was aided by the car's direct steering. Unfortunately, electronic stability control is a cost option on this model.



Refinement:

On the road there was very little wind noise, and very little tyre roar. Yes, the engine is a little noisy in the lower gears, but that's more to do with there being so little other noise and it certainly isn't overwhelming. The 5-speed manual gearbox was easy to use and fairly slick: my only criticism would be the clutch pedal, which was very soft, especially when compared to the brake pedal, which was reassuringly firm.



Buying & Owning:

At £12,390 on the road, the Citroën C3 represents terrific value for money, especially when you consider that you are getting a five seat car with a decent boot. Fuel economy was very good (on a test route of 40 miles we achieved 50mpg) – you do not need deep pockets to own one of these!



Quality & Reliability

Citroën have improved their build quality dramatically over recent years and the fit and finish was comparable to the best German manufacturers. The stylish dashboard plastics had a solid, well-built feel. The C3's reliability was rated as average in the 2011 JD Power customer satisfaction survey.



Safety

At launch the C3 was awarded four stars by Euro NCAP, only missing out on the fifth because stability control was not standard across the range. Citroën do now offer electronic stability control across the range. On this particular model it is a £330 option. You do get curtain airbags, though, on the VTR+ trim, and the security kit, which comprises deadlocks, remote locking, central locking, unique radio fit, and locking wheel nuts, is impressive.



In the Cabin:

The C3 has a good driving position, and the steering has reach and rake adjustment. The dashboard is smart and clear, and the eco-driving gear change indicator is a nice feature. The seats were comfortable and supportive. By far the highlight, however, was the 'Zenith' panoramic windscreen, which really created a light and airy feel in the cabin. The only downside to this feature is that it does get quite warm in the cabin on sunny days. You can cover the extended section with sunblinds, and the C3 VTR+ also comes with air conditioning as standard.



Crewe and Nantwich
Advanced Motorists



Space & Practicality:

The C3 has a massive 300 litre boot which will be of huge appeal to those that require loading space; however, the rear seats do not fold completely flat. Whilst the C3 has 5 seats, the rear seating area is quite tight for adults, although there is plenty of room for children.



Equipment:

The VTR+ spec model we tested comes with a very generous level of kit, including air conditioning, cruise control and electric mirrors as standard. We particularly liked the 'Zenith' panoramic windscreen.



About the dealer:



GRENSON CITROËN
MARSHFIELD BANK EMPLOYMENT PARK,
MIDDLEWICH ROAD, WOOLSTANWOOD
CREWE, CHESHIRE. CW2 8UY
TEL: 01270 251212

As an official Citroën dealership we pride ourselves on offering a first class experience designed to meet all of your Citroën needs and expectations. Our Citroën team of dedicated professionals are always here to provide you with the highest possible levels of service. So, why not drop by today to discover what Citroën has to offer you.

Grenson is synonymous with excellent service and ensuring that customers are completely satisfied, a reputation built up over 34 years. We have developed steadily in to the new, purpose built showrooms on the

Marshfield Roundabout site on Middlewich Road in Crewe, whilst remaining an independent privately run business.

- With so many fantastic models to choose from, Grenson MUST have a car for you.
- In addition to new and used car sales, Grenson offer both a full after sales service, and an “Express Service” facility.

If you are looking for a personal, customer-orientated service, look no further than Grenson.

