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Luxurious Olds LSS is ideal for hauling people

By Anne Fracassa
Avanti NewsFeatures

The 1996 Oldsmobile LSS remains the only vehicle General Motors sells that is outfitted with the neat Guidestar system.

I really thought the Guidestar would catch on as the coolest option to hit the upper crust of GM vehicles, especially since the system only costs around \$1,500. It's still really neat, and although it's not always accurate, it's still perfect for someone like real-estate sales people who need road map information at their fingertips.

That aside, the LSS is still a premium automobile with enough comfort and room for the largest of families or anyone who needs to haul a lot of people around. With the demise of the super-large cars at GM, the LSS may become the next vehicle of choice for taxicab drivers.

Although the standard engine on the LSS is the 3800 Series 3.8-liter, tested was the optional supercharged 3800 Series 3.8-liter engine with sequential fuel injection mated to a 4-speed electronically con-



ROAD TEST
By
Anne Fracassa

could call it. The LSS is much closer in looks to the Ninety Eight, with some refinements.

Detailing all around has been freshened for 1996. Added fog lamps and 16-inch wheels help distinguish it from the Ninety Eight. There's also the fact that the LSS comes fully equipped -- there are only five options to choose from. They include the supercharged engine, cloth trim, a CD player, an engine block heater (for the cold climates) and a power-operated sunroof.

That's it. The standard list is extensive for a vehicle that has a base price of \$26,000 -- dual airbags, anti-lock brakes, a security system, intermittent wipers, child security locks, 4-wheel independent suspension, twilight sentinel, 16-inch aluminum wheels and blackwall tires, dual 8-way power adjustable bucket seats, an electrochromatic mirror with compass, front and rear floor mats, an AM/FM cassette stereo, dual zone air condition-

ing, cruise control, fog lamps, illuminated entry and exit, power door locks, power outside mirrors, a power trunk lid release, power windows with automatic down, a rear window defogger, tilt steering wheel, leather seating, traction control, touring suspension and a trunk cargo net.

Also new for 1996 is the trunk pass-through feature for extra-long items, programmable door locks, daytime running lamps and an improved exterior design. This five-passenger sedan has plenty of headroom, hip-room and legroom, even for the tallest person. Rear seating is comfortable and it's easy to get in and out of. The cargo area could hold at least a month's worth of groceries or take five people's worth of luggage to the airport with little problem. Ride and handling are taken care of with independent MacPherson struts, coil springs and an anti-roll bar in the front and independent

Chapman struts, coil springs and anti-roll bar in the rear. No mistaking the luxury-type ride here.

The Oldsmobile LSS is definitely positioned to meet the needs and expectations of anyone who wants to purchase a full-size import vehicle. The value is certainly there, given its long list of standard equipment.

Anne Fracassa is senior editor of Avanti NewsFeatures.

1996 Oldsmobile LSS
Vehicle class: Full-sized luxury sedan.
Power: 3800 Series II 3.8-liter V6.
Mileage: 19 city / 30 highway.
Where built: Lake Orion, MI.
As tested: \$27,622.

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True or False?

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If you'd like to see a particular model tested or if you have a car question, send Anne Fracassa a message at AVANTI 1054, Avanti's America Online mailbox...

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Anne Fracassa is senior editor of Avanti News Features.

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