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Luxurious Olds LSS is ideal for hauling people

By Anne Fracassa Avanti NewsFeatures

The 1996 Oldsmobile LSS

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

I really thought the Guidestar system it 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 perfect for someone like real-ustate sales people who need road map information at their fingertips.

That aside, the LSS is still a premium automobile with onough 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

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 ongine with sequential fuel injection mated to a 4-speed electronically con-



ROAD TEST Ву Fracassa

trol automatic transmission that packs a whopping 240 horses under the hood.

that packs a wapping 240 horses under the hood.

It's a strong power plant that gets you where you need to go with a minimum of effort and is as quiet as a lamb when getting you there. This thing performs like a strong V8, providing instant response in passing or acceleration from a standstill.

Although Oldsmobile touts this full-size front-wheel-drive sedan as a close kin to the Aurora, the LSS is tamer in looks. Conservative is what you

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 surroof.

an ongue obce hader the cold climates) and a poweroperated sunroof.

That's it.

The standard list is extensive for a vehicle that has a
base price of \$26,000 ·· dual
airhags, anti-lock brakes, a
accurity system, intermittent
wipers, child security locks, 4wheel independent suspension,
twilight sentinel, 16-inch aluminum wheels and blackwali
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-

z. cruise control, fog lamps

illuminated entry and exit, power door locks, power outside mirrors, a power trunk lid release, power windows with nutematic down, a rear window defogger, tilt steering wheat, speed-variable power steering, leather seating, traction control, teuring suspension and a trunk cargo net.

Also new for 1996 is the trunk pass-through feature for extra-long items, programma ble door locks, daytime running lamps and an improved exterior design. illuminated entry and exit,

lamps and an improved exterior design.
This five-passenger sedan has plenty of headroom, hiproom 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 greeries 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

The Great Percent Event

at Jack Demmer Ford

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 vohicle. 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 venicle class: Full-sized luxury sedan. Power: 3800 Series 11 3.8-liter V6.

Vd. Mileage: 19 city/30 highway. Whore built: Lake Orion, MI. As tested: \$27,622.

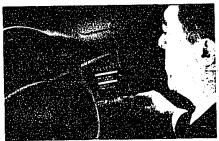


True or False?

Tire pressure 8 pounds low can cause up to a 5 percent drop in gas mileage. Truel

The reason:

Increased rolling resistance.



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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