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CAR Report

Jaguar XJ6 lives up to its name

By Anne Fracassa
Avanti News Features

There are so many ways to say Jaguar. There's Jag-war. Or Jag-wire. Or the Brit way: Jag-you-arr.

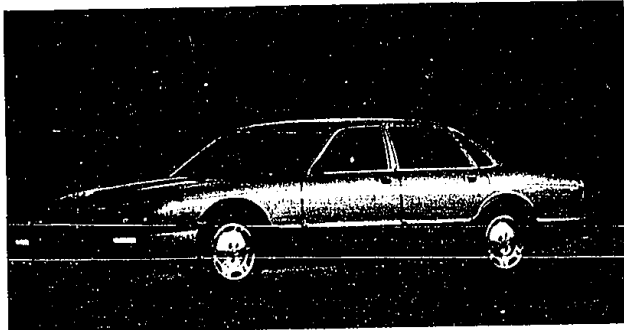
Whatever. All I know is that it lives up to its name.

The Jaguar XJ6 is fast, fast, fast and faster. The good news is that it's not subject to the gas-guzzler tax. The XJ6 gets quite respectable mileage: 17 mpg in the city, 23 on the highway.

This was my first time ever in a Jaguar. What impressed me most is the pure, solid strength of the vehicle. You don't see extensive use of plastic or wood-grain composite material anywhere.

What you see is lots of metal, steel and chrome. When you shut the door, the sound is as solid as can be. It's gotta be as strong as a Mack truck.

Jaguar officials say Jaguar cars are built to the highest quality standards in the world and that Jaguar cars have achieved the highest peak values of strength, refinement, durability and reliability.



ROAD TEST By Anne Fracassa

That may be true. When you do see an occasional Jaguar on the road, many of them are old. Not just 10 or 15 years, mind you. You can see 20-year-old Jags still in service and looking quite nice.

Although Jaguar updates its lineup often with refinements and technological advances, there are still the classic lines and characteristics that set Jaguars apart from any other car line. When you see a Jaguar, you know it's a Jaguar.

From its classic lines and leaping Jaguar hood ornament to the unique headlamps, sculptured hood and traditional grille, the XJ6 carries on the Jaguar heritage proudly.

Inside you'll find smart controls, modern and comfortable seating (redesigned this year for improved support and comfort), top-grade leather and hand-crafted wood veneers used throughout the car. Instrumentation is classic in layout, yet modern in execution.

A throwback from years past is in the 1996 XJ6: The wood-trimmed steering wheel. It has leather handgrips and is outfitted with an airbag. Pockets on the front seats add to storage possibilities. Standard are a locking glovebox, cup holders and a center console storage compartment.

A neat feature is the multi-adjustable front seats with

power lumbar supports. They have memory recall on the driver's side and include the seat adjustments, exterior mirrors and steering column adjustments. There are three settings, two of which can be activated by dual remote locking transmitters.

Press the entry or exit button and the mirrors, steering wheel and seat automatically adjust to your individual preferences.

Heating and air-conditioning controls are located in the center of the instrument panel, are easy to understand and easy to use. Buttons are large and marked well. No guessing when you want heat at your feet or cool air on your face. You can set a temperature control that suits you and it automatically retains that temperature.

I rarely gush about a stereo system in a car, but this needs

a quick mention. Jaguar outfits its XJ6 with an 80-watt AM/FM cassette Harman Kardon sound system (an option, though) that has nine speakers and an 8-channel multi-function power amplifier. Close the windows tight and you'll feel like you're in a premium concert hall — even if you're listening to Bob Seger singing "Roll Me Away" as only Bob can sing it.

Nothing is more annoying than slipping into the rear seat and not being comfortable because the front seat encroaches on your space. Revenge is sweet. Rear-seat passengers can electrically adjust the position of the front passenger seat to increase their own legroom and comfort level.

Rear-seat passengers can also adjust their own heating and cooling from a walnut-veneered rear console.

The 4.0-liter all-aluminum in-line dual-overhead-cam V6 engine is quiet, efficient and provides enough — sometimes more — power than you need to get you there in a hurry. It responds when you want it to and provides passing power when you least expect it.

Handling is responsive on this Jaguar car. It's quite refined, and driving is almost effortless, even in tense situations. The suspension is what

you would expect — top-of-the-line comfort ... truly a touring car.

The Jaguar XJ6 isn't cheap, but you wouldn't expect it to be. You'll get what you pay for. And that's quality.

1996 Jaguar XJ6

Vehicle Class: Compact luxury sedan
Mileage: 17 mpg city/23 mpg highway
Engine: 4.0 liter in-line DOHC V6
Where Built: England
Base Price: \$56,320

Things You AUTO KNOW!

True or False?

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

True!

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... Or comment through the Internet at AVANTI1054@aol.com. Anne Fracassa is senior editor of Avanti News Features.

Save A Lot With Bob Jeannotte

1996 GRAND PRIX SE SEDAN

Dual air bags, 3.1 V6, power windows, power door locks, pass key theft deterrent, cruise, rear defogger, AM/FM cassette, aluminum wheels, remote trunk release & more. Stock #950040

SALE PRICE **\$15,995*** GM OPT II Deduct \$881.55

1996 FIREBIRD

V6, automatic transmission, air conditioning, dual air bags, rear defogger, tilt, cruise, AM/FM stereo cassette, tinted glass and more. Stock #960145

SALE PRICE **\$16,495*** GM OPT II Deduct \$882.50

36 month Smart Lease **\$275*** per mo.

1996 TRANSPORT SE

Automatic, anti-lock brakes, deep tinted windows, seven passenger seating, rear window defogger, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette. Stock #960503

SALE PRICE **\$17,995*** GM OPT II Deduct \$1,004.43

36 month Smart Lease **\$269*** per mo.

1996 GRAND AM GT COUPE

Automatic transmission, 3100 V6, dual airbags, anti-lock brakes, cruise control, rear defogger, AM/FM stereo cassette, power door locks. Stock #960265

36 MONTH SMART LEASE **\$223.99**** per mo.

1996 SUNFIRE SE 2 DOOR COUPE

Air conditioning, tilt, AM/FM cassette, defogger, ABS brakes. Dual air bags. Stock #960183

SALE PRICE **\$11,995*** GM OPT II Deduct \$640.43

1996 JIMMY 4X4 4 DOOR

4.3 V6 engine, air conditioning, automatic transmission, ABS brakes, air bag, power windows/locks/mirrors, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette stereo, and much more! Stock # 668270.

SALE PRICE **\$23,995***

30 month Smart Lease **\$299**** per mo. GM OPT II Deduct \$1305.20

1996 BONNEVILLE SE

3800 V6, automatic transmission, air conditioning, AM/FM stereo, rear defogger, power windows, power locks, ABS brakes, dual air bags. Stock #960314.

SALE PRICE **\$19,695***

36 month Smart Lease **\$299**** per mo. GM OPT II Deduct \$1079.43

1996 SONOMA EXT. CAB

2.2 liter, four cylinder engine, four speed automatic transmission, air bag, ABS brakes, air conditioning, tilt, cruise, aluminum wheels, AM/FM stereo cassette, tachometer and much more! Stock #959079.

SALE PRICE **\$14,495*** GM OPT II Deduct \$406.95

1996 SIERRA PICK-UP

Vortec 4300 V6 engine, automatic transmission, air conditioning, air bag, ABS brakes, painted rear step bumper, AM/FM stereo and much more! Stock #968283.

SALE PRICE **\$15,995*** GM OPT II Deduct \$819.55

36 month Smart Lease **\$259**** per mo.

1996 SAFARI VAN

Vortec 4300 V6 engine, automatic transmission with overdrive, dual air bags, ABS brakes, air conditioning, Dutch doors, eight passenger seating, power windows, locks and mirrors, tilt & cruise, keyless center, rear defogger, AM/FM cassette stereo and much more! Stock #968101.

SALE PRICE **\$19,945***

36 month Smart Lease **\$319**** per mo. GM OPT II Deduct \$1070.50

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