

one in a million BY JOE SAGE

During the week we had our 2016 Mazda CX-5, news broke that the popular compact crossover had hit a million sales—in just three years. Mazda has one of the highest customer satisfaction rates in the industry, so that’s a lot of “likes.” We reaffirmed our own.

New in 2012, the vehicle received an available 2.5-liter engine and 9-speaker Bose audio, the two things it needed, both of which we enjoyed—a lot—again in this 2016 model. Dozens of upgrades this year include exterior details, interior fitment and tech features.

Our logbook notes had almost no beefs, just smooth sailing. Prices start at just \$21,795, and our extremely highly-outfitted Grand Touring is just \$28,220 (or \$1250 more with AWD). The CX-5 appeals to us as it continues to have more of a “small SUV” style and stance than many crossovers. We find it to be one of the most solid choices in the compact crossover segment.

The CX-5 has won more than 60 awards, including Car of the Year twice in highly competitive Japan, where it has also been the top seller twice so far this decade. Our CX-5 is built in Hiroshima. Global sales are so hot, plants have been added in four more countries for other markets. ■

SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	SKYACTIV 2.5L 4-cyl
TRANSMISSION	6-spd sport mode auto (avail. man.)
DRIVETRAIN	front-wheel drive (avail. AWD)
POWER/TORQUE	184 hp / 185 lb-ft
TURNING CIRCLE	36.7 ft
WEIGHT	3433 lb
FUEL / FUEL CAPACITY	87 octane reg / 14.8 gal
MPG	26/33/29 (city/hwy/comb)

INCLUDED: 19-inch alloys, rain-sensing wipers, intermittent rear wiper, heated mirrors, leather wheel w/audio/cruise controls, leather trimmed sport seats, 8-way power driver’s seat w lumbar, heated front seats, keyless entry/start, rear privacy glass, roof spoiler/antenna, power moonroof, dual zone auto climate, Bose 9-speaker audio, 7” touchscreen, rear camera, 40/20/40 split rear seat, carpeted floor mats, rear cross traffic alert, ABS/EBD, DSC, TCS, hill launch and much more.

BASE PRICE	\$28,220
GT i-ACTIVE PACKAGE: Radar cruise, smart brake, lane departure warning, high beam control.....	1500
GT TECH PACKAGE: Nav, LED heads, adaptive front lights, LED DRLs, LED fogs, LED tails, smart city brake, auto-dim mirror w Homelink	1505
CARGO MAT:	60
SOUL RED PAINT:	300
REAR BUMPER GUARD:	100
RETRACTABLE CARGO COVER:	200
DOOR SILL TRIM PLATES:	125
DESTINATION CHARGE:	880
TOTAL	\$32,890



The only thing we might change is the position of the start/stop button, concealed behind the right-hand barrel stalk (the style of which we like a lot) —never intuitive, if you have multiple vehicles.

