

Respect.

BY JOE SAGE

Sexy, tough and made in America. What better way to get around Michigan for a week than in the "Imported from Detroit" Chrysler 300 on its home turf? Our leather-lined Black Forest Green Pearl Coat sedan with 19-inch polished cast aluminum wheels turned heads and snagged compliments from pizza joints to weddings to roadhouses, everywhere from the 'hood to the 'burbs.

The Chrysler 300 lineup starts at \$32,160 for a rear-drive Limited. In the mid-to-upper \$30s are the 300S and 300C, one aimed at sport and one at comfort (the equally stylish 300S is \$2960 less). Our ride here is in the top model 300C Platinum AWD with a 292-hp Pentastar V6, at \$45,065 (or \$42,690 with rear-drive). Ours had a \$2995 pack-

age of electronic driving aids you could take or leave, though for \$3000 you could add a 363-hp 5.7L HEMI. (The V6 in the 300S is tweaked to 300 hp; the HEMI is offered on all but Limited; AWD is available on any Chrysler 300.) With all this power and roominess, highway fuel mileage still ranges from 25 mpg to as high as 31 mpg.

At half or even a third of some alternatives, you can forget about any Euro badge envy. In fact—as we found in Michigan—this industrial strength luxury cruiser can give other folks a good case of Detroit badge envy. ■

