

# Spirited animal

BY JOE SAGE

It was late in the year for us to receive a 2019 model for review. But we had recently driven a red Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio AWD on a 24-mile segment in the high plains of central Oregon at NWAPA's Run to the Sun (where it won its Performance SUV category). And we had *just* driven this exact same white one at the Southwest Lifestyle Media Drive event here in Arizona (a non-award event this year) for about 20 minutes of in-town wheel time. So the opportunity for a good weeklong dose seemed irresistible. And it's a relatively low-volume vehicle, so it seemed unlikely to change a whole lot for the 2020 model year.

A few weeks *after* this full week with the Alfa, we happened upon an online conversation among media peers, in which someone had asked what vehicle anyone drove for a week this year and just did not want to give back. A notable number of people had the same answer: Alfa Romeo Stelvio.

We had indeed found a lot to like before even leaving the office parking lot—setting up AC and presets and such, we found the Alfa to have one of the most intuitive interfaces we've seen lately—a quick operation, but better still, it provided

zero frustration, even more important than speed.

On the other hand, we repeatedly noted hair-on-fire chirping and beeping from its assist systems; the occasional oddity in its shift setup (an electronic unit that can slow you down between R and D when you need it fast); and a wish that its DNA (Dynamic, Natural or Advanced Efficiency i.e. eco) drive modes allowed for a custom profile combining the more aggressive power curve of Dynamic with the friendlier suspension of Natural.

But then we recalled our first ever week with the Stelvio. We had not been enjoying it that much around town, but then took it out to Bartlett Lake Road and opened it up, and it liked that, as did we. Like a thoroughbred horse, it may whinny and jerk at the reins in the corral, but let it loose and it's a stunning performer. The Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio has 505 hp for a reason. Use it. Enjoy it.

As it turns out, there are a number of changes for the 2020 model year. Inside are a new 8.8-inch touchscreen, style and finish upgrades, and some updated controls. Outside, you can get an optional flare, sill and fascia kit in body color or in a Dark Miron finish; a carbon fiber grille, mirror cap and badge kit; and two new paints. Oh, and—despite at its core being an exotic Italian sports machine—it adds more driving assistance electronics. ■

## SPECIFICATIONS

<b>FACTORY</b> .....	Cassino Assembly Plant, Cassino, Italy
<b>STRUCTURE</b> .....	midsize SUV; longitudinal front engine; unitized high-strength steel body; alum front & rear vehicle frames, front shock towers, brakes, suspension components, doors, fenders, roof and hood; composite rear cross member; carbon fiber driveshaft
<b>ENGINE</b> .....	2.9L twin-turbo V6, 90°, direct inj; alum alloy head & cover w integrated cam carrier, alum alloy crankcase w wet steel liner, alum alloy bedplate w integrated blow-by control reed valves, super-finished forged nitride steel crankshaft w single con-rod pin, forged aluminum pistons w twin oil jets
<b>HP / TORQUE</b> .....	505 hp / 443 lb-ft
<b>TRANSMISSION / DRIVE</b> .....	8-spd auto, paddles / AWD
<b>SUSPENSION</b> .....	F: dbl wishbone w semi-virtual steering axle; R: Alfa Link w vertical rod link; active damping
<b>STEERING</b> .....	rack & pinion w variable elec assist
<b>BRAKES</b> .....	F: 14.2x1.26 vented, six-piston monoblock; R: 13.8x1.1 vented, four-piston monoblock
<b>WHEELS</b> .....	F: 20x9.0; R: 20x10.0 dark 5-hole forged alum
<b>TIRES</b> .....	Pirelli P Zero: F: P255/45R20; R: P285/40R20
<b>LENGTH / WHEELBASE</b> .....	185.1 / 111 in
<b>GROUND CLEARANCE / TURN CIRCL</b> .....	7.9 in / na
<b>HEADROOM (F/R)</b> .....	40.2 / 38.9 in
<b>LEGROOM (F/R)</b> .....	36.6 / 31.9 in
<b>CARGO CAPACITY</b> .....	18.5 / 56.5 cu.ft
<b>WEIGHT</b> .....	4360 lb
<b>TOW CAPACITY</b> .....	3000 lb
<b>FUEL / CAPACITY</b> .....	91 oct prem / 16.9 gal
<b>MPG</b> .....	17/23/19 (city/hwy/comb)
<b>BASE PRICE</b> .....	<b>\$80,245</b>
<b>PAINT: Trofeo White Tri-Coat</b> .....	2200
<b>DRIVER ASSISTANCE DYNAMIC PKG</b> .....	1200
<b>CONVENIENCE PKG W LIFTGATE</b> .....	350
<b>DUAL PANE SUNROOF</b> .....	1350
<b>HEATED REAR SEATS</b> .....	350
<b>CARBON FIBER STEERING WHEEL</b> .....	400
<b>WHEELS: 20x9 &amp; 20x10 dark alum</b> .....	500
<b>COLOR CALIPERS: red w/ white script</b> .....	350
<b>DESTINATION CHARGE</b> .....	1595
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$88,540</b>

