

## Space and power highlight Sienna

BY WILLIAM ROEBUCK

Whether you have a small or large family, you quickly grow to appreciate good design in a roomy vehicle. That's what happened with our test of the seven-passenger Toyota Sienna LE minivan, which is all new for 2004. We already had high expectations, since it was the winner in the minivan category of the 2004 Car of the Year awards organized by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC).

The Sienna has plenty of storage space, from small cubbies to flip-and-fold seats that extend cargo-carrying capacity and flexibility. There are two glove compartments, a slide-out tray under the passenger seat for maps and guidebooks, and a small covered slot on the dashboard as well.

Another large drawer angles out from the instrument panel stack, ideal for storing CDs. These also can fit into a fairly large box in the centre console, which has a lift-up lid, the underside of which includes a clip for a notepad.



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The Sienna's split, flip-and-fold third-row seat is well designed. It folds into a storage tub in two sections; you can fold away one seat, two seats or all three. The seats have clearly labelled straps that make folding and unfolding them simple. Passenger access to the rear is eased by fold-and-tumble second-row seats.

The quiet-riding 2004 Sienna is powered by a new 230-hp, 3.3-litre V6 engine; the large fuel tank gave us 700 km between

fill-ups. The powertrain offers a towing capacity of 3,500 lb (1,587 kg).

The brakes, which on all Siennas include ABS, Brake Assist and Electronic



**2004 Sienna is smooth, quiet, powerful and spacious.**

Brake Force Distribution, felt strong, but were somewhat sensitive in slow-speed situations such as parking lots, where they would jerk you to a fast stop.

The well-equipped base CE seven-passenger model is \$30,000. The model tested was a \$34,750 LE, plus \$2,495 for the optional leather package. The price can go all the way up to \$51,845 for a fully loaded 4WD XLE LTD with options such as a DVD entertainment system, backup sensors, laser cruise control and all-wheel drive. 🌿

■ *William Roebuck is Editor of Home Digest and an award-winning member of the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada. For a more detailed review, visit [www.cartest.ca](http://www.cartest.ca).*