

History of the Toyota Venza

Is it a wagon or a car? Is it a minivan or an SUV? Actually, the Toyota Venza is currently being marketed as a mid-size crossover SUV. Call it what you will, but this isn't your typical Soccer Mom's Mini-Van. Now, you have a choice.

The Toyota Venza is manufactured at Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Georgetown, Kentucky and it was introduced to the public in 2008. United States suppliers contribute to over 70% of the Venza's components. The Venza is a sure bet to become yet another legendary vehicle produced by Toyota as the unprecedented lineage continues because it is based on the Camry's chassis.

Right off the assembly line, the Venza came bearing gifts such as fog lamps, 20" alloy wheels (V6), XM satellite radio, 6-disc CD changer, dual-zone climate control, electrochromic auto-dimming rear-view mirror, 8-way power drivers seat, steering-wheel mounted audio controls, Hill-Start assist control and the Toyota Star Safety System. These are not options—they all come standard!

To better enhance fuel efficiency, the Venza uses an electric motor for its electric power steering where most power steering is generally run by the conventional gasoline engine. The engine does not need to be on in order to use the power steering.

The Venza comes with either front-wheel or all-wheel drive. You have two engine choices: a 2.7-liter four-cylinder with 182 horsepower, and a 3.5-liter V6 housed with 268 horsepower. Both engines offer a six-speed automatic transmission with manual shift control. It also has a towing capacity of 3,500 pounds so you can haul around a small boat, kayaks, or a utility trailer.

It has a roomy interior that seats five and has generous cubbyholes for stowing away items. According to Edmunds.com: "The Venza's interior design and quality is superior to other contemporary Toyota vehicles." As far as safety, The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety deemed the Venza as *Top Safety Pick* in 2010 and 2011 when it won an award for superior roof strength.

To date, the Venza has only offered one model, but it came with a nice choice of packages. As of 2012, get ready to choose from three new models: the LE, XLE, and Limited.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric_power_steering#Electric_systems

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric_power_steering

<http://www.edmunds.com/toyota/venza/>