

## WHAT CAR?

### CAR OF THE YEAR 2020

Executive car  
Winner

**BEST BUY** £30,000-£40,000

## BMW 3 Series 330e M Sport

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN the tried and trusted facets of the BMW 3 Series are combined with cutting-edge plug-in hybrid technology? You get the 330e and a five-star review.

You see, the 330e is better than any other hybrid saloon, being very nearly as engaging as regular 3 Series variants, relaxingly refined and rather comfortable – especially on the motorway. Its closest rival, the Volvo S60 T8, may be more cossetting, but it's much pricier to buy and run and hardly any fun to drive.

The 330e also offers class-leading infotainment and good space front and rear. The only real downside of the hybridisation is that 100 litres of boot is given to the battery.

When fully charged, the 330e can officially cover up to 36 miles on electricity – a few more than the S60 T8 and Mercedes-Benz C300e. And it remains fairly frugal when forced to run on petrol power, recording 37.2mpg in our hands. The resulting low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions yield massive tax savings for company car drivers, too.

Although diesel, despite all the negativity, will still be the best choice for some, the 330e just pips the 320d to the post here, due to its potentially lower ownership costs.

#### KEY FACTS

**List price** £39,980 (£40,700 from 1 April 2020)

**Target PCP** £409

#### Performance

**0-62mph** 5.9sec

**Top speed** 142mph

#### Running costs

**Official economy** 176.6-201.8mpg combined (WLTP)

**CO<sub>2</sub>** 37-32g/km (WLTP)

**Company car tax band** 10%

**Insurance group** 33

#### Safety

**Euro NCAP rating**



**97%** **87%** **87%** **76%**

(2019)

## Winner Executive car BMW 3 Series 330e M Sport

Petrol, plug-in hybrid or electric? Our answer is the car we believe will suit most people most of the time: the BMW 330e.

This slickly integrates the latest technology with the long-held wants and needs of executive saloon drivers. That it's easy to live with, of the very highest standard everywhere inside, fantastic to drive and yet relatively cheap to run secures it the victory.

If the Tesla Model 3 has a long enough range for your needs, it'd make a terrific choice. Likewise, the Skoda Superb offers great value for money, delivering much of its rivals' capability. But the 330e possesses greater premium lustre than either, while providing penny-pinching zero-emissions driving without a hint of range anxiety.

