



## SHE'S ELECTRIC

The battery-powered *Jaguar I-Pace* demands to be treated like a queen. *By Katarina Krosnakova*

**L**ET'S ADDRESS THE ELEPHANTS in the room first. Most consumers have a degree of prejudice about fully electric cars, presuming they will leave you stranded in the middle of nowhere without battery charge. Many might also imagine an electric car to be slow, boring and for the middle-aged.

While such notions may contain an element of truth, phenomenally advanced cars such as the Jaguar I-Pace will go a long way to dispel them. The awards for the I-Pace are coming in thick and fast. The combination of British heritage and advanced electrification technology earned it the prestigious European Car of the Year award for 2019. It beat a sports car to take the title: the first time Jaguar has won and the first electric car to take top honours. Big deal all round.

Globally, Jaguar has sold about 13,000 of these compact luxury SUVs, 100 of them in Australia, while the Canberra dealership where I picked up my test-drive vehicle told me they had so far moved just two. That's partly because this is not just a car, it's a lifestyle choice. Yes, you are emitting zero carbon dioxide and paying zilch in petrol, but you are also choosing to be vigilant about charging your battery. All the time. Not just for driving purposes, but also to keep the battery in good health with a constant trickle charge. In the first few days, I must admit, it was a discipline. I charged mine overnight in the garage using a standard wall socket, but there are a lot of free charging stations at various venues around the country if you're happy to wait 40 minutes for an 80 per cent charge.

The Jaguar Remote app is a thing of wonder. It tells you if your car is charging and the range left on the battery, shows the odometer, the weather, if

the vehicle is locked and the doors are closed, it can beep and flash in a shopping centre carpark to give you the vehicle's exact location and allows you to heat or cool the cabin before you get in.

The battery, when fully charged, can get you about 470 kilometres, depending on your driving style. If you happen to be a hoon and a lead foot, you will see that 470 disappear quicker than the actual kilometres travelled. If, however, you take advantage of the car's regenerative braking technology, taking your foot off the accelerator not only slows the vehicle down, but also recharges the battery and allows for single-pedal driving. It makes you a calmer, smoother, more balanced driver, as you become more conscious of those extremes of acceleration, and you feel a bit smugly self-righteous when you drive past all those suckers paying at petrol stations.

On the speed and performance front, the I-Pace is no slouch. It will do 0–100km/h in 4.8 seconds. In comparison, my two previous BAZAAR car reviews clocked in at six seconds (for the Maserati Levante) and 2.9 seconds (the Ferrari Superfast). So plenty of power and plenty of fun to be had. It is quite disconcerting to push the I-Pace's 'Start' button and for there to be no engine growl, and the hush of the cabin is something I hadn't experienced before. The chilled ride is heightened by the interiors: my trim was ivory leather, and, together with the panoramic sunroof and the cleverly designed cabin in which visibility is paramount, I truly felt like a princess in a glass carriage.

Siobhan Hughes, Jaguar's chief colour and materials designer, tells us her intention was to create interiors that are clean and uncluttered but which still create drama. "That white colour scheme is very quiet and serene. There shouldn't be any design noise in terms of the way the colours are put together — there is no patchwork, everything is beautifully considered, the whole environment is in one colour," Hughes says. "We're all about elegant simplicity and craftsmanship." She recently created some signature branding touches and motifs such as a monogram pattern inspired by the jaguar. "It's like a fashion brand would do," she says. "I think some of those little details will appeal more emotionally to women than men." ■



### VITAL STATS

#### *Jaguar I-Pace*

##### NEED FOR SPEED:

0–100km/h in 4.8 seconds, top speed 200km/h

##### BATTERY TRANSMISSION:

EV400 90kWh, single speed auto, AWD

##### BEST BITS:

No petrol stations, calming interiors, visibility from cabin

##### WORST BITS:

Vigilance and patience with charging the battery

##### COMPETITORS:

Most are still to come to market, closest is Tesla X

##### BUY IT BECAUSE:

You want to reduce carbon footprint and fuel cost

##### HOW MUCH:

From \$119,000 for the S model, \$149,833 as tested

### TRAVEL COMPANIONS



Clockwise from far left: The Row boots, \$1620, matchesfashion.com; Tiffany & Co. bracelet, \$11,100, tiffany.com.au; Loewe sunglasses, \$485, matchesfashion.com; Bottega Veneta skirt, \$5000, matchesfashion.com.