

U.S. News Touts Six of GM's Brands as 'Best for Families'

GM's family of cars did well for families. At least that's what *U.S. News & World Report* says.

General Motors' brands took home six awards in the 2014 Best Cars for Families report from *U.S. News & World Report*.

Ranging from small cars to SUVs, GM's award winners have the best combination of quality, safety, features and space for families, the report stated.

- The winners were:
- Chevrolet Impala: Best Large Car for Families;
 - Chevrolet Tahoe: Best Large SUV for Families;
 - Buick Enclave: Best 3-Row SUV for Families;
 - Buick Verano: Best Upscale Small Car for Families;
 - Cadillac CTS: Best Luxury Large Car for Families;
 - Cadillac ATS: Best Upscale Midsize Car for Families.

GM received more awards than any other automaker, and it is the second year in a row GM has the best family vehicles in six different vehicle segments, said company spokesperson Susan Waun.

The award criteria include top marks in professional automotive reviews, safety and reliability ratings, seating and cargo volume and family-friendly features, Waun said.

The *U.S. News & World Report* rating called the Impala a car that comes with "a high-quality interior, aggressive styling and a wealth of available features (that) make the redesigned 2014 Chevrolet Impala an undeniably modern and comfortable large car.

"Because it has the best combination of positive reviews, price and long-term ownership costs in its class, we named the 2014 Chevrolet Impala the Best Large Car for the Money."

U.S. News & World Report had this to say about the Buick Enclave. "Reviewers like the design of the Enclave's cabin, and are pleased with the ample use of premium materials throughout. The Enclave can seat up to eight people and reviewers report that the front seats are comfortable, the second-row seats are spacious enough for three-across seating, and adults can fit in the third row if needed."

The magazine picked the Tahoe because it "trumps its rivals with a refined powertrain, comfortable ride and straightforward interior. Because it has the best combination of positive reviews, price and long-term ownership costs in its class, we named the 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe the Best Large SUV for the Money."

The magazine chose the Buick Verano because it "delivers a cushy ride, luxurious interior finishes and a good amount of cargo space, reviewers say. For having the best combination of factors that appeal to families, we named the Verano our 2014 Best

Upscale Small Car for Families."

The Cadillac CTS was picked because "after a complete overhaul, reviewers say the 2014 Cadillac CTS sedan's extraordinary performance and luxurious, quiet cabin make it one of the best luxury large cars you can buy."

The Cadillac ATS made the list for its "sporty handling and powerful engine options (that) make it capable of hanging with the best German sport sedans. It comes up a bit short with a small trunk and fussy tech features."

"The Cadillac ATS is available with a range of engine choices. The base engine is a four-cylinder engine that reviewers say provides adequate power. Most test drivers recommend stepping up to the optional turbocharged four-cylinder engine or V6 if you're seeking faster acceleration."

While Ford scored with its Fusion Hybrid and Chrysler with the Jeep Grand Cherokee, GM finished ahead of all automakers placing first in six of the 19 different vehicle categories that comprise *U.S. News & World Report's* list. Mazda, the second-place finisher, had four winners, and Honda and Toyota had only one each.

"At GM, everything is about providing our customers with the best overall experience in the industry," said Alicia Boler-Davis, senior vice president of GM Global Customer Experience and Product Quality.

"Our cars and trucks deliver on all ingredients that create a winning formula for our customers."

Germans to Recall Life Surrounding World War II

What was it like on the German homefront before and during World War II?

That's what the Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society roundtable will explore on Saturday, April 5, in the society's facility at 16600 Stephens in East-pointe.

Beginning at 4 p.m, attendees will hear from a panel of Germans representing several different cities and regions talking about what it was like to live in Germany before, during and after World War II.

Speakers will also talk about what it was like to grow up under the heel of Hitler's Third Reich and the coming of war; survive bombing raids and the Soviet steamroller; and live through the occupation and eventual partition of Germany into East and West.

Admission to the event is by donation. To learn more about the society and upcoming events, got to www.mimths.org.

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