

CARGAZING

Doubling Down on Hybrids

Bold Move Makes Toyota's Bread-and-Butter Camry More Efficient, Sophisticated

By Derek Price

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After a week behind the wheel of the redesigned 2025 Toyota Camry XSE, it's clear that rumors of the sedan's demise have been greatly exaggerated.

The ninth-generation model arrives with a decisive strategic shift — it's now hybrid-only — and proves that Toyota isn't giving up on the segment it has dominated for more than two decades.

Our test car, a top-trim XSE model loaded with \$6,221 in options, showcases the Camry's upmarket aspirations. The as-tested price of \$41,916 includes the Premium Plus package (\$4,075), which adds features including a panoramic sunroof, head-up display and hands-free driving capability.

The new hybrid powertrain, standard across all trim levels, combines a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine with Toyota's latest electric motor system.

Total output in our front-wheel-drive tester is 225 horsepower, while AWD models get a boost to 232 hp. While that's less than the outgoing V6, the instant torque from the electric motors provides satisfying acceleration for daily driving.

Efficiency is impressive, with our sportier XSE trim rated at 48 mpg city, 47 highway. Lower trims do even



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better, with the LE achieving up to 51 mpg combined.

The Camry's greatest strength is its composed, refined road manners. The suspension soaks up road imperfections while maintaining good body control, though the steering could use more feedback.

Wind and road noise are notably subdued thanks to additional sound insulation and acoustic glass. One minor gripe: the engine can sound coarse during hard acceleration.

Inside, our tester's bold red leather upholstery makes a strong first impression.

The redesigned cockpit features improved materials and a cleaner, more modern layout dominated by a 12.3-inch touchscreen. Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard, as is a wireless charging pad.

Front seats offer good support and visibility, while rear passengers enjoy generous legroom. The trunk provides 15.1 cubic feet of cargo space, about average for the segment.

Safety features are comprehensive, with Toyota Safety Sense 3.0 standard across the lineup. This includes adaptive cruise con-

trol, lane keeping assist and automatic emergency braking. However, some advanced features like the hands-free driving system are restricted to expensive option packages.

Exterior styling takes an aggressive turn in XSE trim, with a sport mesh grille, 19-inch wheels and available two-tone paint treatment — a \$500 option on our tester. The look is modern without being overwrought, though lower trims present a more conservative appearance.

The 2025 Camry starts at \$28,400 for the base LE trim, representing strong value

considering the standard hybrid powertrain. Our loaded XSE proves that Toyota can also play in the near-luxury space, though value-minded shoppers might want to skip some option packages.

With this comprehensive redesign, Toyota demonstrates its commitment to the sedan segment while acknowledging market demands for efficiency and technology.

The result is a thoroughly modern take on the midsize sedan that should keep the Camry relevant for years to come.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2025 Toyota Camry XSE (\$34,600). Options: 50 state emissions (\$425), Premium Plus package (\$4,075), two-tone roof (\$500), front accent lighting (\$399), door sill enhancement (\$199), trunk LED bulb (\$25), cargo net (\$49), wheel locks (\$90), carpet and trunks mats (\$309), mudguards (\$150). Price as tested (including \$1,095 destination charge): \$41,916

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 111.2 in.
Length: 193.5 in.
Width: 72.4 in.
Height: 56.9 in.
Power: 2.5-liter four cylinder engine plus electric motors (225 combined hp)
Transmission: Continuously variable
MPG: 48 city, 47 highway

RATINGS

Style: 8
Performance: 7
Price: 7
Handling: 8
Ride: 7
Comfort: 7
Quality: 10
Overall: 9

WHY BUY IT?

The 2025 Camry builds on its reputation for reliability with improved efficiency, enhanced technology and premium amenities.



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Bold red leather upholstery and a 12.3-inch touchscreen highlight the Camry XSE's premium cabin, which features upgraded materials and improved ergonomics.

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A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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