

## Passion Meets Practicality

### Alfa Romeo's Updated Stelvio Maintains Its Driver-First Spirit

By Derek Price

CARGAZING.COM

The 2025 Alfa Romeo Stelvio proves that SUVs needn't sacrifice driving enjoyment for utility.

While some may mourn the departure of its V6 engine — as I definitely do — this Italian crossover retains the engaging personality that sets it apart in an increasingly crowded segment.

For 2025, Alfa Romeo streamlines the Stelvio lineup while introducing new technology. The turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, which makes 280 horsepower and 306 pound-feet of torque, pairs with a quick-shifting eight-speed automatic transmission and standard all-wheel drive.

The Stelvio's handling remains a highlight. Its quick 12:1 steering ratio provides immediate response, while the chassis delivers exceptional balance through corners.

The standard sport-tuned suspension provides excellent body control without punishing occupants over rough pavement.

Alfa Romeo's distinctive design language translates beautifully to the crossover format. The signature triangular grille, sleek headlights, and muscular proportions create one of the segment's most attractive vehicles.

Inside, the 12.3-inch digi-



Striking design elements and optional 20-inch wheels emphasize Stelvio's sporting character.

tal instrument cluster impresses with its configurable displays and crisp graphics. Three distinct layouts — Evolved, Relax, and Heritage — allow drivers to prioritize different information. The Heritage mode, with its inverted numbers reminiscent of classic Alfas, adds particular charm.

The interior design emphasizes the driver, with a cockpit-like layout and well-positioned controls. The leather-wrapped steering wheel feels impressively sporty for an SUV.

Material quality varies, with some plastics feeling less premium than the price point suggests. Rear seat

space trails key competitors, though the 56.5 cubic feet of maximum cargo capacity proves adequate for most needs.

Our test vehicle's Veloce Package added worthwhile performance upgrades including a limited-slip differential, sport seats with power bolsters and distinctive styling elements.

The Active Driver Assistance Package brings welcome safety features such as adaptive cruise control and lane-keeping assist, though some rivals include these as standard equipment.

On the road, the Stelvio demonstrates its sporting

heritage. The direct steering provides excellent feedback, while the balanced chassis encourages spirited driving.

The drive mode selector meaningfully alters the vehicle's character. In Dynamic mode, throttle response sharpens, shifts become more aggressive, and the already precise steering weights up further.

The turbocharged four-cylinder, while down on power compared to the discontinued V6, still moves the Stelvio with authority. Zero to 60 mph arrives in around 5.5 seconds, accompanied by a surprisingly engaging engine note.

Highway cruising reveals

the Stelvio's refined side. Wind and road noise remain well controlled, while the suspension absorbs most impacts effectively.

At \$59,140 as tested, the Stelvio positions itself as a distinctive alternative to mainstream luxury crossovers. While it may not match some competitors' refinement or space, its engaging dynamics and striking design make a compelling case for drivers seeking something beyond the ordinary.

Overall, the 2025 update maintains the Stelvio's core appeal while improving technology and streamlining options.

#### AT A GLANCE

##### WHAT WAS TESTED?

2025 Alfa Romeo Stelvio Venice AWD (\$48,995). Options: Premium paint (\$2,200), active driver assistance package (\$700), sunroof (\$1,500), Veloce Package (\$2,000), 20-inch wheels (\$1,750). Price as tested (including \$1,995 destination charge): \$59,140

##### BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 110.9 in.  
Length: 184.6 in.  
Width: 74.9 in.  
Height: 66 in.  
Engine: 2.0-liter turbocharged four cylinder (280 hp, 306 lbs. ft.)  
Transmission: Eight-speed automatic  
Fuel Economy: 22 city, 28 highway

##### RATINGS

Style: 9  
Performance: 9  
Price: 5  
Handling: 8  
Ride: 7  
Comfort: 7  
Quality: 6  
Overall: 8

##### WHY BUY IT?

The Stelvio's Italian flair and engaging dynamics combine in a practical crossover that stands apart from mainstream luxury rivals.



# CARGAZING



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Inside, the 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster impresses with its configurable displays and crisp graphics. Three distinct layouts — Evolved, Relax, and Heritage — allow drivers to prioritize different information.



A driver-focused cockpit features new digital displays while maintaining traditional Alfa Romeo touches.

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#### A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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