

Italian Flair Meets Efficiency

Stylish Plug-In Hybrid Proves Practicality Isn't Always Boring

By Derek Price
CARGAZING.COM

The 2025 Alfa Romeo Tonale proves that the words “efficient” and “exciting” aren’t mutually exclusive in the crossover segment.

After a week with the Tributo Italiano special edition, it’s clear that Alfa Romeo has created something unique: a plug-in hybrid SUV that’s genuinely fun to drive.

At the heart of the Tonale is an innovative hybrid powertrain that combines a 1.3-liter turbocharged engine with an electric motor to produce 285 horsepower and 347 lb-ft of torque.

Even more impressive than the raw numbers is the way this system operates, offering up to 33 miles of pure electric range while delivering a combined 77 MPGe when properly charged. Even running on gasoline alone, it manages a respectable 29 mpg.

But numbers tell only part of the story.

The Tonale’s real charm lies in its engaging driving dynamics. Sharp steering, responsive handling and a well-sorted chassis make this one of the most enjoyable crossovers to pilot. The dual-mode active suspension system delivers both comfort and control, a rare combination in this segment.

The Tonale’s Italian heritage is evident in its striking



The Tonale’s distinctive Italian design creates an unmistakable presence in a crowded segment.

design. My tester’s Verde Fangio metallic paint (\$2,200) drew constant attention and compliments, showing that Alfa Romeo hasn’t lost its ability to create head-turning vehicles.

The distinctive “3+3” LED headlights, Scudetto grille, and flowing body lines create a presence that stands out in a sea of conservative crossovers.

Inside, the Tributo Italiano edition showcases premium materials with perforated leather seats featuring red accents. The cabin blends modern technology — including a 10.25-inch touchscreen with wire-

less Apple CarPlay and Android Auto — with traditional Italian flair. The driver-focused cockpit layout reflects Alfa Romeo’s sporting heritage.

At \$59,630 as tested, the Tonale Tributo Italiano represents a significant investment. Budget-conscious buyers might note that the mechanically similar Dodge Hornet offers much of the same capability at a lower price point. However, the Tonale’s distinctive styling, premium interior, and Alfa Romeo badge may justify the premium for some buyers.

The Active Assist

Advanced package (\$2,000) adds valuable features including a surround-view camera system and various driver assistance technologies. While these features bring the Tonale in line with modern expectations, they don’t detract from its engaging character.

Some might question the wisdom of creating a performance-oriented plug-in hybrid crossover, but the Tonale makes a compelling case for itself. It delivers the efficiency expected of modern vehicles while maintaining the emotional appeal that Alfa Romeo is known for.

The ability to run on pure electricity for daily commutes while still offering engaging performance for weekend fun creates a genuinely versatile package.

The Tonale represents a successful fusion of traditional brand values with modern necessity. It proves that the transition to electrified powertrains doesn’t have to come at the expense of driving enjoyment.

While it may share basic architecture with its more affordable Dodge cousin, the Tonale’s distinct personality, premium execution and superior dynamics make it feel special.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2025 Alfa Romeo Tonale Tributo Italiano EAWD (\$51,995). Options: Verde Fangio metallic paint (\$2,200), Active Assist Advanced package (\$2,000), power moonroof (\$1,400), additional key fob (\$40). Price as tested (including \$1,995 destination charge): \$59,630

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 103.8 in.
Length: 178.3 in.
Width: 82 in.
Height: 63.2 in.
Power: 1.3-liter turbo four cylinder plus electric motor (285 hp, 347 ft. lbs.)
Transmission: Six-speed automatic
MPG: 77 MPGe when charged, 29 gasoline only

RATINGS

Style: 9
Performance: 9
Price: 3
Handling: 9
Ride: 8
Comfort: 6
Quality: 7
Overall: 7

WHY BUY IT?

The Tonale offers a unique combination of efficiency, style and driving enjoyment, making it a standout choice for buyers seeking a premium compact SUV that breaks from the norm.

CARGAZING



The Tonale's distinctive Italian design creates an unmistakable presence in a crowded segment.

Italian Flair Meets Efficiency

Stylish Plug-In Hybrid Proves Practicality Isn't Always Boring

By Derek Price
CARGAZING.COM

The 2025 Alfa Romeo Tonale proves that the words “efficient” and “exciting” aren't mutually exclusive in the crossover segment.

After a week with the Tributo Italiano special edition, it's clear that Alfa Romeo has created something unique: a plug-in hybrid SUV that's genuinely fun to drive.

At the heart of the Tonale is an innovative hybrid powertrain that combines a 1.3-liter turbocharged engine with an electric motor to produce 285 horsepower and 347 lb-ft of torque.

Even more impressive than the raw numbers is the way this system operates, offering up to 33 miles of pure electric range while delivering a combined 77 MPGe when properly charged. Even running on gasoline alone, it manages a respectable 29 mpg.

But numbers tell only part of the story.

The Tonale's real charm lies in its engaging driving dynamics. Sharp steering, responsive handling and a well-sorted chassis make this one of the most enjoyable crossovers to pilot. The dual-mode active suspension system delivers both comfort and control, a rare combination in this segment.

The Tonale's Italian heritage is evident in its striking design. My tester's Verde Fangio metallic paint (\$2,200) drew constant attention and compliments, showing that Alfa



Premium materials and driver-focused ergonomics reflect Alfa Romeo's sporting heritage, while modern technology keeps the Tonale thoroughly contemporary.

Romeo hasn't lost its ability to create head-turning vehicles.

The distinctive “3+3” LED headlights, Scudetto grille, and flowing body lines create a presence that stands out in a sea of conservative crossovers.

Inside, the Tributo Italiano edition showcases premium materials with perforated leather seats featuring red accents. The

cabin blends modern technology — including a 10.25-inch touchscreen with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto — with traditional Italian flair. The driver-focused cockpit layout reflects Alfa Romeo's sporting heritage.

At \$59,630 as tested, the Tonale Tributo Italiano represents a significant investment. Budget-conscious buyers might note

that the mechanically similar Dodge Hornet offers much of the same capability at a lower price point. However, the Tonale's distinctive styling, premium interior, and Alfa Romeo badge may justify the premium for some buyers.

The Active Assist Advanced package (\$2,000) adds valuable features including a surround-view camera system and various driver assistance technologies. While these features bring the Tonale in line with modern expectations, they don't detract from its engaging character.

Some might question the wisdom of creating a performance-oriented plug-in hybrid crossover, but the Tonale makes a compelling case for itself. It delivers the efficiency expected of modern vehicles while maintaining the emotional appeal that Alfa Romeo is known for.

The ability to run on pure electricity for daily commutes while still offering engaging performance for weekend fun creates a genuinely versatile package.

The Tonale represents a successful fusion of traditional brand values with modern necessity. It proves that the transition to electrified powertrains doesn't have to come at the expense of driving enjoyment.

While it may share basic architecture with its more affordable Dodge cousin, the Tonale's distinct personality, premium execution and superior dynamics make it feel special.

A CLOSER LOOK



AT A GLANCE

FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2025 Alfa Romeo Tonale Tributo Italiano EAWD (\$51,995). Options: Verde Fangio metallic paint (\$2,200), Active Assist Advanced package (\$2,000), power moonroof (\$1,400), additional key fob (\$40). Price as tested (including \$1,995 destination charge): \$59,630

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 103.8 in.
Length: 178.3 in.
Width: 82 in.
Height: 63.2 in.
Power: 1.3-liter turbo four cylinder plus electric motor (285 hp, 347 ft. lbs.)
Transmission: Six-speed automatic
MPG: 77 MPGe when charged, 29 gasoline only

RATINGS

Style: 9
Performance: 9
Price: 3
Handling: 9
Ride: 8
Comfort: 6
Quality: 7
Overall: 7

WHY BUY IT?

The Tonale offers a unique combination of efficiency, style and driving enjoyment, making it a standout choice for buyers seeking a premium compact SUV that breaks from the norm.