

BEST DRIVER'S CAR OF THE YEAR » » » MITSUBISHI EVO X

THIS IS THE car every jury member wanted to spend the maximum time driving. It even plastered a smile on the face of Narain Karthikeyan, who is no stranger to high-performance cars.

The Evo X is all about the performance delivered with the turbo on song, shovelling masses of boosted air into the engine. Drive it hard, in the manic part of the powerband, and the Evo immediately lives up to all the hype, slamming you back to your seat. There's no let up in power even at the top of the powerband, and it feels fast enough to hang on to the tail of a supercar. And it's not just the power but the incredibly composed and relaxed way it carries serious speeds into corners that makes it so rewarding to drive.

Performance is devastating, the chassis is incredibly stiff and confidence-inspiring. You just seem to want to extract more and more performance from this car. It really goods you into putting the hammer down because it's only when you drive it hard that you access the best

this car has to offer.

The Evo X is pretty practical too. It has a decent 140mm of clearance and very stiff springs, so if you are careful you can go over stuff you'd never imagine tackling with your

Porsche. There's plenty of space on the rear seats and there's even some amount of boot space.

The only downside is the Rs 50-lakh price-tag. For this sort of money, you could get yourself a

5-series or an E-class with higher levels of quality and much more refinement. But would they be as much fun? We answered this by unanimously giving the Evo X the Best Driver's Car award.



Yoshiaki Wada, head - marketing & dealer development, HM-Mitsubishi, receives the award from Narain Karthikeyan.