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Mercedes-Benz Buying Guide

World-class luxury and refinement meet cutting-edge style and technology. *by Chad Gallion*

Introduction

Mercedes-Benz is one of the oldest automobile manufacturers in existence and has a long history of building world-class vehicles that emphasize refinement and luxury, while pushing the boundaries of innovation and performance. A move toward bolder styling and reimagining some of it's storied past, Mercedes has and continues to refresh its model lineup. Currently, Mercedes offers a wide array of sedans, coupes, roadsters, crossovers, SUVs and exotic sports cars that can be had with regular gas engines, clean diesels and fuel efficient hybrid powertrains. With the 2010 introduction of the fantastically redesigned E-Class, the gullwing SLS AMG supercar, the S400 Hybrid and safety features like Attention Assist drowsiness monitoring, the Mercedes-Benz march towards performance without compromise continues with gusto.

Photos courtesy of Mercedes-Benz.

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World-class luxury and refinement meet cutting-edge style and technology.

Mercedes-Benz C-Class

The C-Class is the easiest and least expensive way to acquire the envied three-pointed star that Mercedes-Benz offers. Outfitted in Luxury and Sport versions, the C300 has great build quality, admirable safety features and strong resale value. It suffers slightly from the combination of lower power and a higher price point than its nearest competitors from BMW and Audi, but that's why they make the 268-hp C350 Sport. For 2010, a new optional Dynamic Handling package, including driver-adjustable suspension, speed-sensitive steering, paddle shifters and 18" AMG wheels, adds extra oomph to the Sport models. Of course, there is always the hasty C63 AMG for those looking for a 451-hp V8 in an entry level car. And who isn't?

MSRP: \$33,600 – \$57,350
Base Engine: 3.0-liter V6 with 228 hp
Base EPA mpg: 18 city/26 hwy/21 cmb
Competition: BMW 3 Series, Audi A4, Lexus ES350

- Choice of 3.0-liter V6 or 268-hp 3.5-liter V6
- Bold styling is an attention getter
- Optional Dynamic Handling package bolsters sportiness
- C63 AMG is a modern German muscle car

- Mercedes-Benz C-Class Research
- Mercedes-Benz C-Class Price Quote

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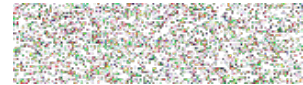
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Mercedes-Benz E-Class

The newly redesigned E-Class is an automotive tour de force in almost every way. With the launch of the E-Class Coupe, which replaces the discontinued CLK-Class, and the drop top 2011 E-Class Cabriolet, Mercedes has almost all its bases covered. Consumers still have to wait a little while for the beloved E-Class Wagon, but the brawny E63 AMG screams back on the scene with its addictive 518 hp. The E-Class has a new interior that matches or betters even the uber-luxury S-Class in build quality, materials and comfort. The ride and handling feel solid and over-engineered, the steering is communicative, technology abounds and luxury is in every corner. To make the E-Class even more ridiculously great, Mercedes managed to somehow price this world-beater below the previous E-Class. This vehicle is the epitome of what a Mercedes-Benz can be, and a credit to the company's impressive history.

MSRP: \$48,050 – \$85,750
Base Engine: 3.5-liter V6 with 268 hp
Base EPA mpg: 18 city/26 hwy/21 cmb
Competition: BMW 5 Series, Audi A6, Jaguar XF

- High tech features perfectly blended with old world luxury
- Engine choices galore, and diesel soon to return
- The cutting edge of safety technologies
- Quite possibly the best all-around vehicle in the Mercedes-Benz lineup

- [Mercedes-Benz E-Class Research](#)
- [Mercedes-Benz E-Class Price Quote](#)

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