

RULING THE ROOST

T6 R-Design is top Volvo crossover

BY DON KLEIN

FROM AN ENTHUSIAST'S point of view, the 2011 XC60 T6 R-Design is at the top of the Volvo crossover food chain. With 300 hp and 325 lb-ft of torque, the turbocharged 3.0-liter six joins forces with a six-speed automatic transmission and Volvo's vaunted preloaded Instant Traction all-wheel-drive system to provide spirited driving both on and off the road. A stiffer chassis and more direct steering aid the cause. And if you never use the full complement of "Driving Assists"—which includes "City Safety" (a closing-velocity



sensor system that helps prevent low-speed collisions in traffic)—it's nice to know that the systems are there.

Still readily identifiable as a Volvo, the XC60 T6 R-Design is sportier and hipper than its relatives. For example, the vertical taillights melt into the car's rear flanks as though in tribute

to Salvador Dalí. Color-matched lower body moldings, 20-inch Cratus alloy wheels, a metallic-themed interior, twin chrome tailpipes and silk-metal-finish outside mirror housings, trim moldings and skid plates are among the other goodies included for the \$43,025 MSRP. ☼

2011 Volvo XC60 T6 R-Design

ON SALE: Now **BASE PRICE:** \$43,025
DRIVETRAIN: 3.0-liter, 300-hp, 325-lb-ft turbocharged I6; AWD, six-speed automatic **CURB WEIGHT:** 4,264 lb **0-60 MPH:** 6.9 sec (mfr est) **FUEL ECONOMY (EPA):** 19 mpg



XC TIMES 3

TO STEAL AN AD slogan from another product back in the day, Volvo has "come a long way, baby," as evidenced not only by worth-a-second-glimpse models such as the S60 and the C30 but also by its latest batch of crossovers. But de-

spite massive strides in performance and styling—the XC60 looks, dare we say, sexy—Volvo is still a brand that exudes safety and practicality, a combination that attracts enough buyers to warrant three separate crossovers: the XC60, the XC70 and the XC90.

We recently got to experience all three on a four-day road trip from Los Angeles to Gateway, Colo., ample time to get up close and personal. The verdict: While each has its own distinct personality, there's a common denominator of understated luxury

and comfort combined with an arsenal of technology that inspires the driver to venture forth, whatever the terrain or the weather. When you punch a rugged itinerary into the nav system, you expect the computer voice to reply, "No problem, we can do that." —DK

