



## **2016 Hyundai Veloster Rally Edition Performance on a Budget**

I have been waiting a long time to get behind the wheel of the Hyundai Veloster. Well this week I get the chance to sample not only a Veloster but The new Rally edition painted in an interesting Matte blue paint job.

The new Rally Edition is aimed squarely at undercutting the Volkswagen GTI, Honda Civic Si and Ford Focus ST. The 2016 Veloster delivers coupe-like styling in a vehicle nearly as practical as a 5-door wagon. Like any good coupe, the Veloster features a long driver's-side door. But move to the passenger side and Veloster parts ways with its coupe brethren, fitted with two smaller doors that allow rear-seat passengers to get in and out more easily.

The Hyundai design team has integrated this 3-door design into the car's sleek styling so unless you look close, you think it was normal 2 door coupe. The Veloster's cargo area is large and usable and the backseat is fine for average to small size adults and children. Tall and large folks however this not a backseat for you. Rear visibility can be challenging but well worth the trade off in the styling department

The Veloster appeals to enthusiast-oriented drivers on a budget. For less than \$25,000 buyers can get behind the wheel of a turbocharged compact with impressive power, fuel economy and performance credentials, plus stand-out styling and that unique third door. My test vehicle came in at \$24,775 a good deal.

My test car the 2016 new Rally Edition joins the lineup featuring a stiffer suspension, RAYS lightweight alloy wheels and a B&M Racing sport shifter. A new 7-speed dual-clutch transmission is available on turbo trims, while all Veloster's feature a revised hood and grille design, available Siri Eyes Free and upgraded interiors.

Veloster's interior is as tasteful as it is high-tech. The 7-inch touch screen is the audio and, if so equipped, navigation command center. Up front are comfortable seats for average-size adults, although a tall driver will be short on headroom. . The Veloster Rally adds Rally Edition floor mats and blue Leatherette seat bolsters with matching cloth inserts. The base Veloster has cloth seats and less flash, but is still nicely appointed.



The 2016 Hyundai Veloster stands out from the crowd thanks to its long and low profile, large wheel arches and a sloping roof. Turbo versions pump up the visual volume with a huge grille, standard fog lights, available red exterior accents and larger twin tailpipes. The Rally model adds RAYS 18-inch alloy wheels, unique Matte Blue paint (requires buyers to sign a waiver explaining its special care, including hand washing) and carbon-fiber-look aero accents.

All Veloster models share the most defining feature of this sporty hatchback, namely that passenger-side extra door.

Like most Hyundai vehicles, the 2016 Veloster comes nicely equipped: a 7-inch multimedia touch screen that includes a rearview monitor, a 6-way manual driver seat with height adjustment and an Internet radio-ready AM/FM/satellite/CD system with 196 watts and six speakers. Hyundai's Blue Link telematics system offers access service and infotainment features, so parents looking to spoil their kids with a new car will be happy to know the Veloster can alert them if the car goes beyond a certain speed or designated perimeter. A 6-month trial is included, with a subscription offered thereafter.

The 1.6-liter turbocharged inline-4 delivers 201 horsepower and 1955 lb-ft of torque. This a youthful car and the ride can be hard at times. But for those who want a distinctive styling and performance along with added practically at an attractive price the 2016 Veloster is great value for the money and a fun ride.

. Front Engine-FWD-6 speed Manual

### **Highlights**

Styling

Performance

Value

### **Lowlights**

Some cheap plastics

Hard Ride

## **The Long Drive Ratings**

### **Scale 1 low-10 High**

Exterior Styling 8

Interior styling and quality 6

Handling 7

Braking 6

Fuel Economy 7

Stereo System 6

Performance 6

Trunk-Cargo Capacity 8