

# All-inclusive By Joe Sage

**A**cura has its own attractive way of pricing. Everything is included—as long as the version you buy is the one that includes everything you’re after. Rather than being options, the MDX’s three available packages create three factory builds. You can have a technology package in a model so named, or both that and an entertainment package in the next model up, also so named. Add a third “advance” package and you have all three, in a model that curiously leaves tech out of its name. That’s the one we have here: the “2015 Acura MDX AWD ADV ENT” (a new record for alphanumeric?). There is one other variable throughout the lineup: you can have a front-driver or Super Handling all-wheel drive (SH-AWD), also included here. Ours is top of the line.

The MDX claims a spot in history as the first-ever three-row luxury crossover SUV, launched in 2000 as a 2001 model (and winning the coveted North American Truck of the Year crown).

We had driven this same trim in a 2014 model—a completely reworked third-generation MDX—some ten months earlier and had declared the vehicle to be a mixed bag. We had been distracted by perceived annoyances with the touchscreen, mirrors and other relatively minor points.

We did not start out strong this year, either, finding the power liftgate more contrary that convenient and still not liking the mirrors. We had to eke out more power from its V6 via the paddle

shifters, which worked well but would return to less responsive Drive without our permission. (We also would prefer to be able to access its manual from the shift lever, not just from paddles.)

But then... using S instead of D gave noticeably better results. Keyless entry working from any door was a big plus. And in a world full of many fairly similar vehicles, the MDX’s shape became more and more attractive to us over the course of a week, especially from the side or rear 3/4 view.

Last year we had mentioned some functionally equivalent vehicles—some with better cargo and power specs—at half the price. But then, those were not officially in the luxury class, as this is.

Last year’s tester was a drab silver. Maybe this year’s deep blue Forest Mist Metallic made a difference. If so, it was money well spent (but, being Acura, it actually didn’t cost a dime). For whatever reasons, the MDX won us over this year.

And apparently we are not alone. There’s nothing like being behind the wheel of a particular vehicle, to start noticing its closest relatives in surrounding traffic. And our travels were like a family reunion—these are very popular.

This is borne out by the data. By mid-2014—with sales almost 70 percent higher than the year before and expecting to top 700,000 units over the vehicle’s full history—Acura was able to declare the MDX to have become America’s best-selling three-row luxury SUV of all time. ■

## SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE.....	3.5L SOHC 24-valve VTEC V6
TRANSMISSION.....	6-spd auto w sport shift
DRIVETRAIN.....	SH-AWD all-wheel drive
POWER/TORQUE.....	290 hp / 267 lb-ft
WHEELS.....	19x8.0 machine-finish (tech pkg)
WEIGHT.....	(58/42 distrib) 4332 lb
.....	(FWD model w no packages 4025 lb)
FUEL CAPACITY.....	19.5 gal
CARGO VOL (BEHIND 3RD-2ND-1ST ROWS)	
.....	15.8 cu.ft. / 45.1 cu.ft. / 90.9 cu.ft.
TURNING CIRCLE.....	37.6 ft
ANGLES (APPR-DEP-BRK).....	14.9° / 19.4° / 15.2°
TOWING CAPACITY.....	3500* lb (350 lb tongue)
.....	*5000 lb with dealer option, AWD models only.
MPG.....	18/27/21 (city/hwy/comb)
.....	(FWD model 20/28/23 MPG)

**FEATURES:** Stability, ABS, EBD, handling-assist dynamic braking, multi-angle rear camera w dynamic guides, touchscreen, satellite radio, Pandora, Bluetooth, SMS text, 10-way power driver’s seat, driver position memory, heated front seats, keyless entry and start, HomeLink, power liftgate, power moonroof w tilt, 19x8 alloy wheels, LED headlights, auto-dim heated power mirrors w turn signals.

### INCLUDED IN THIS TRIM LEVEL:

- **TECH PACKAGE:** Nav w voice recog, real-time traffic, ELS Studio premium 12-sprk audio, HD radio, tri-zone auto climate w filtration, blind spot, LED puddle lights, rain sensing wipers.
- **ADVANCE PACKAGE:** Collision mitigation, sport seats w leather trim, vented front seats, front psngr 10-way pwr seat, remote start, lane keep, adaptive cruise w low speed follow, roof rails.
- **ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGE:** Ultrawide 16.2" rear DVD-HDMI-wireless headset rear, 115-volt outlet, heated 2nd row seats, rear door sunshades.

BASE PRICE (TECH-ENT-ADV).....	<b>\$56,780</b>
DESTINATION CHARGE:.....	895
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$57,675</b>



*The Acura family grille, which has always reminded us of an old steam locomotive’s cowcatcher, has been slowly moving from a solid metal plate to revealing a bit more, well, grillework. We welcome whatever evolution they are willing to apply.*