

Our Mudfest event cruiser

Avalon is Toyota's flagship sedan, basically their full-size model, although EPA-classed as midsize, in an era of ever increasing overlap. Camry is Toyota's midsize, the best seller in that top-volume category; Avalon offers its appeal in a larger size and upfeatured.

Toyota Avalon is the corporate sibling to Lexus ES, though Lexus adds the rear-drive GS and big LS above that. Avalon starts at \$33,300—their biggest sedan at \$4525 less than the compact Lexus IS and \$5600 less than the near-twin ES. Our Avalon, in second-to-top Touring trim (Limited is the line-topper), is highly featured and premium-outfitted at \$1250 less than a base ES.

We drove ours from Seattle-Tacoma airport to our Olympic Peninsula hotel, to the Mudfest event site and back, then back to Sea-Tac. Powerful and smooth, our leather-trimmed Avalon cocoon had a user-friendly split-screen touch interface and nine-speaker premium audio—nice in a wild Pacific Northwest rainstorm, as was knowing the entire Toyota Safety Sense P (TSS-P) system is now standard in the entire Avalon lineup.

Toyota understands badge envy, as they bring us both brands. For a near-Lexus experience with a dose of Toyota frugality, Avalon delivers. ■

SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE.....	3.5L DOHC 24v dual VVT-i V6
DRIVETRAIN.....	transaxle FWD
HP/TORQUE.....	268 hp / 248 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION.....	6-spd ECT-i automatic
SUSPENSION	F: MacPherson strut w torsion bar; R: dual link indep MacPherson strut w stblzr bar
STEERING.....	electrically assisted rack & pinion
BRAKES	F: 11.7 vented / R: 11.1 solid disc Parking brake: foot-applied pedal
WHEELS/TIRES	18x7.5 / P225/45 R18
LENGTH/WB/GRND CLEAR.....	195.3" / 110.0" / 5.5"
TURNING CIRCLE	40.0 ft
SEATING CAPACITY	five
LUGGAGE CAPACITY.....	16.0 / 61.3 cu.ft.
WEIGHT.....	3505 lb
FUEL / CAPAC	87 octane reg / 17.2 gal
MPG.....	21/30/24 (city/hwy/comb)

INCLUDES: Toyota Safety Sense P included (pre-collision system w/pedestrian detection, lane departure alert w/steering assist, auto high beams, dynamic radar cruise control); Star Safety System (VSC, TRAC, ABS, EBD, BA & Smart Stop); Latch child seat system, rear outboard seats; alarm w/engine immobilizer; blind spot monitor w/cross traffic alert; auto on/off LED headlights; heated mirrors w/signals; dual chrome-tip exhausts; power tilt/slide moonroof; dual zone climate w/filter and rear vents; Entune 9-spkr premium audio w/nav & app suite, AM-FM-CD-HD-SiriusXM, 7" touchscreen, leather trimmed seats/wheel, paddle shift, Bluetooth, voice command, 8-way power driver's seat & 4-way passenger; keyless entry/start, HomeLink.

BASE PRICE.....	\$37,650
BLIZZARD PEARL PAINT.....	395
CARPET/TRUNK MAT SET.....	224
DESTINATION CHARGE.....	865

TOTAL..... **\$39,134**



Photo: Joe Sage