

A NEAR-INFINITE MODEL RANGE

A twofold spread of horsepower, price, style and purpose BY JOE SAGE

For those still translating earlier Infiniti badging, the Q50 replaced the G37 sedan (with a Q60 replacing the G37 coupe/convertible). Infiniti Q50 is a compact executive sedan with the persona of a midsize, giving it a fair shot at competing in both segments—more challenges, yet more chances.

With fully 12 models in the Q50 lineup, Infiniti is ready to take on all comers. First are four 208-hp two-liter 4-cylinder turbo (2.0t) models, in two trims, Pure and Luxe, times two drivetrains (rear-wheel or AWD), running from \$34,200 to \$38,550 before add-ons—though as you'll see in our sidebar, add-ons are to be expected.

Next are six three-liter V6 twin-turbo (3.0t) models in three trim/engine levels: four 300-hp Luxe and Sport trims (RWD/AWD, \$38,950 to \$42,650); and two 400-hp twin-intercooled Red Sport (RWD/AWD, \$51,000 or \$53,000). Finally, there are two 3.5L V6 Hybrids (RWD/AWD, \$50,600 or \$52,600).

Short of the Hybrid or the highest-performance Red Sport, and short of adding AWD (to any) for \$2000, our rear-drive Infiniti Q50 3.0t Sport is tops among the most mainstream models, yet closer to the lower end of the price scale, a definite sweet spot. The Sport approaches the style and performance of the Red Sport, with the same aggressive

grille and downforce front lip, though 100 shy of the Red Sport's horses. Fuel mileage is fairly close across the whole lineup—just one point between Sport and Red Sport AWD, and just two between RWD 2.0t and Hybrid. Even pricing (even with options) comes close enough between models that your decision can be made on other attributes.

The driver interface includes a dual-screen center stack with a prominent display for nav and cameras (though we'd wish to swap audio up there when we already know where we're going; and the backup camera needs better nighttime imaging).

Performance in our RWD 3.0t Sport was strong, so much so that its Liquid Platinum (silver) paint didn't do it justice. We might buy a Red Sport just to get its Dynamic Sunstone Red paint (an \$800 option that really juices things up). On the other hand, fewer horses and stealthier paints might keep you out of trouble but not out of fun.

There's enough to keep you busy just among the various Q50 builds at your Infiniti dealer that you may forget the many other possibilities in the segment. That's not brainwashing, just competitive positioning. With this 3.0t Sport model, rule out competitors short on premium and short on sport, and things really narrow down quite a bit. ■

SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	3.0L alum alloy V6 twin turbo, resin-coat pistons
DRIVETRAIN	RWD (AWD available)
HP/TORQUE	300 hp / 295 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION	7-spd auto, sport mode, downshift rev match, adapt shift control, hill start assist, VDC/cancel
SUSPENSION	F: indep double wishbone w stblzr bar; R: multi-link independent w stblzr bar
STEERING	rack electric power (direct adaptive avail)
BRAKES	F: 12.6x1.1, R: 12.1x0.6 (larger Red Sport avail)
WHEELS / TIRES	19x8.5 alum alloy / 245/40R19
LENGTH / WB / TURN CIRC	189.6 / 112.2 in / 36.7 ft
LEGROOM (F/R)	44.5 / 35.1 in
WEIGHT	3774 lb
FUEL / FUEL CAPACITY	premium unleaded / 20.0 gal
MPG	20/29/23 (city/hwy/comb)

BASE PRICE: 3.0t Sport..... **\$40,650**

INCL: LED auto headlights, LED DRLs/fogs/turns/brakes, sport front fascia, leather seats/wheel, 8-way pwr front seats w man thigh extension & lumbar, dual zone auto climate, keyless entry and start, dual touch display, Bluetooth, two USB, aux/video, voice recog, one-touch tinted moonroof.

ESSENTIAL PACK (3.0t SPORT): nav w voice recog, InTouch services, SiriusXM Traffic, heated front seats & wheel, 60/40 fold rear seat, remote engine start.....2500

PROASSIST PACKAGE: blind spot warning, rear cross traffic alert, backup collision intervention, around view monitor w moving object detection, front/rear sonar, predictive fwd collision warning, fwd emergency braking.....1650

PERFORMANCE PACKAGE: dynamic digital suspension, sport brakes w silver paint calipers, paddle shift.....1500

SENSORY PACKAGE (SPORT): Bose 16-sprk Performance Series Centerpoint surround sound audio, power tilt/tele wheel, memory for seat, steering column, mirrors, advanced climate control, interior ambient lighting, auto-dim outside mirrors.....2650

INFINITI ILLUMINATED KICK PLATES.....465

DESTINATION CHARGE.....995

TOTAL..... **\$50,410**

