



## Enjoying the Open Road

*Taking a Road Trip in the all new Audi Q7*

By Jeffrey Gomez

Summer-- the perfect time to pile your friends in a car and take a haphazard trip to Anywhere, U.S.A. Now I know that there are many hurdles and problems that arise when tackling such an adventure and there are even more pertinent questions, such as: Who's buying the drinks? Where's the best spot to meet new acquaintances? What profession should we say we are in this week? However, none of these carefully studied questions is as important as, what car do we take? The answer, as I, along with 6 of my closest



friends found out, was in the Audi Q7. More sophisticated land yacht than soccer mom SUV, the Q7 has all the necessities and features that can make any trip, no matter how ill-advised, pure joy.

With what seemed like more controls than a

jumbo jet, the Q7 has everything one could ask for. iPod hook up? Check. Panoramic glass sunroof? Check. Push button starter? Check.

Knowing that there are times when even the best laid plans go awry, Audi installed navigation and satel-

lite radio to make those errant roads more bearable.

The body style of the Q7 greeted my friends and I with a look that could compliment any profession we so choose. Although I must say that an underwater bomb squad member was pushing it...

Anyhow, the lines of this SUV were worlds apart from more mainstream vehicles. It is a credit to the Audi engineers that a vehicle which could fit 7 people, and I don't mean waif model sort of people, can be sculpted into a shape that rivals any sports car.

As for performance, well, let's just say that the Q7 definitely has the potential to receive misdemeanor moving violations. The 3.6 liter V-6 engine, which produces 280hp, combined with a 6 speed automatic transmission, all riding on 20 inch rims

make for one thrilling ride. The Bose sound system, blaring out tunes from Biggie to Beck, kept all occupants, and their heads, bouncing along.

Winding down the long roads and into the vastness of the Mojave Desert, my expedition and I kept the swelter-



ing heat at bay with a customizable climate control system that the most ardent of control freaks would covet. Furthermore, what is usually an afterthought in other vehicles; the trunk space of the Q7 perfectly accepted the bags and junk of everyone in my party.

As our hopes of finding Ms. America in the desolate desert, faded like the setting sun, my tour group of friends decided that we had to head back to civilization. However, some

might argue that Las Vegas is not a true civilization, but a hedonistic city, locked away in the desert. Either way, my friends and I thought it was the perfect oasis to find rest and comfort. Surely the slot machines, hostesses, and stiff drinks should be considered necessities.

Having been thoroughly contented with the diversions of Sin City, it was soon time to head home to Los Angeles. Again, the Audi Q7 did not miss a beat and simply ate up more



road than gas. With a highway estimate of 20 miles per gallon, the luxurious Q7 sipped premium gas, like a true aristocrat at high tea.

If you are ever in the market for an SUV that holds within its cabin, a luxurious and flawless interior design, then the Audi Q7 is the only way to go. The ergonomics of design and function are not lost to pretty form. Instead, Audi has created



a vehicle that compromises the best of everything into one swift and roomy package.

So let the soccer moms have their boxes on wheels, for you have come to understand that getting the children, or friends who act like children, from point A to

point B, is more about the journey and less about the destination. Then again, if you buy the Q7, you will know that you have definitely arrived.