

2017 Cadillac Escalade Review

A pop culture icon in its own time, the Cadillac Escalade offers unmatched gravitas and presence—if that's your thing.

The Cadillac Escalade is the big hoss of GM's luxury lineup. It's more than just the high-falutin' version of the Suburbans, Tahoes, and Yukons that almost rival it for luxury fittings; it's probably the most recognizable Cadillac on the road today, thanks as much to its beveled edges to its imposing stance.

Available in base, Luxury, Premium Luxury, and Platinum configurations, the Escalade goes from well to lavishly-equipped with the tick of a few option boxes.

The Escalade earns an impressive 7.7 on our overall scale thanks to its comfort and surprising performance.

There's no question that the Escalade boasts more bravado than just about anything else to ever hit the road, but this latest SUV is far more luxurious, refined, and capable than ever before. Straddling the line between tasteful and excessive, the Escalade's unmistakable style is evident from every angle. At its core, it shares its frame, its structure, and much of its running gear with the Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban and the GMC Yukon, but the Escalade takes things to an entirely different level inside and out.

Two configurations are on offer, the standard wheelbase shared with the Tahoe and Yukon and a extended Escalade ESV model based on the Suburban and Yukon XL. Either way it is ordered, all Escalades ride on a choice of 20- or 22-inch alloy wheels, the latter of which feature a new design for 2017. Full LED lighting outside is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Escalade's high-tech features; LEDs line its vertical head and tail lamps and they illuminate the Cadillac logo on the SUV's grille.

Cadillac Escalade interior and technology

Inside, the Escalade moves even further from its comparatively pedestrian siblings. Cut-and-sewn leather upholstery trims out the cabin, with genuine hide and suede tucking neatly next to open pore wood trim. From the front seats—which are heated and cooled as standard—the centerpiece of the dashboard is Cadillac's tablet-like CUE touchscreen infotainment system, which can be activated by voice, capacitive touch and swipe gestures. The driver faces a 12.3-inch display with a cluster of digital gauges that can be configured in one of four themes. A head-up display is optional and projects selected information onto the windshield for the driver.