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2017 Mazda CX-9

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**Look out, soccer moms**  
Will your next minivan drive itself?  
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TEST DRIVE

## Midsize Mainstay

### 2017 Toyota Camry XLE

DAN LYONS | text  
*Special to the Times Union*

**S**liding inside this week's test drive car, my first impression was simple. "Gee, I can see!" Setting aside my penchant for profundity, the point is, Camry's visibility is very good.

It sounds basic, but it's actually quite rare. I drive over a hundred different vehicles a year. New ones, old ones, big and small ones. When it comes to visibility in current vehicles, I'm far more apt to be figuring out how bad it is, than applauding how good it is.

**2017 Toyota Camry XLE**  
MSRP: \$23,070 (base LE), \$31,370 (XLE V-6)  
\$35,118 (as tested)

In Camry, big windows, thin roof pillars and the right seat height all contribute to the driver being able to see what's around all four corners. This promotes safer driving and returns blind spot and rear cross traffic alerts to their rightful, secondary role, in a belt-and-suspenders approach to driver awareness.

Sightlines aside, Camry's interior has room for five. Passenger griping, particularly on long trips, often comes from those in the back seats. Rear seat legroom is spacious — 38.9 inches — about 1½ inches more than traditional rival Accord, and the cabin is wide enough to accommodate three across in comfort.

Nothing here to complain about (unless it's your driving). Trunk space measures 15.4 cubic feet. That's about average for the segment, half a cubic foot shy of



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURER

**TOYOTA CAMRY** returns for 2017 with minor changes from the previous year's model and three trim levels. The Camry has room for five and rear seat room (left) is spacious, about 1½ inches more than traditional rival Accord.

perennial rival Accord, and is large enough to handle a typical family vacation's worth of stuff. The rear seat-backs split and fold to reveal a rounded pass-through, useful when you need to carry long items. Up front, seating is long on comfort (even base models have a two-way power lumbar support for the driver), though lateral support is modest.

HVAC controls are conventional in design, easy to use, non-distracting and located mid-way up the center stack. LE and SE trims get a 6.1-inch touchscreen for access to the Entune infotainment system. Screen size is bumped-up to 7 inches

Camry's core buyers value comfort and stability more than sport.

on XSE and XLE models (and optional on lower trim models via the Audio Plus Package). It's a fairly straight forward setup, though Camry (unlike Accord) doesn't allow for integration of smart-phone apps like Android Auto or Apple CarPlay.

Camry checks in for 2017 with minor changes from the previous model year. Higher trim levels now get an upgraded sound system as standard equipment. Also new for 2017 (and standard on XLE/SLE and XLE Hybrid) is wireless charging for your Qi-compatible smartphone or MP3 player.

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\* BASED ON 2013/14/15 NEW VEHICLE SALES PER AHM