

Uh-oh...
The Donald's not going to like this.
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Wagon fever
Has even Porsche caught it?
PAGE 2



Ouch, that smarts!
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Car show calendar
Because the snow's not here yet.
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TEST DRIVE

Max Nissan

2017 Nissan Maxima

DAN LYONS | text
Special to the Times Union

Fully redesigned last year, Maxima returns for 2017 largely unchanged — except for owners of Apple smartphones.

Nissan's midsize sedan adds Apple CarPlay to the standard features offered via NissanConnect for the new model year. CarPlay allows users to access their texts (or other select apps) through the car's 8-inch touchscreen or by voice commands. The system is not currently compatible with Android Auto.

Phone stuff aside, Maxima — in top Platinum trim — offers a handsome interior with a near-luxury look and feel. The diamond-quilted leather upholstery tugs up-

2017 Nissan Maxima
MSRP: \$32,560 (base) · \$39,990 (Platinum)
\$42,610 (as tested)

ward on the cabin's visual appeal, as do other, premium standard features like a heated, flat bottom, power tilt/telescoping steering wheel, driver seat memory settings and a power sunshade for the backlight. Rain-sensing wipers, a driver drowsiness alert system and blind spot monitoring are also counted among the Platinum's equipment roster, along with Forward Emergency Braking and an Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection.

The latter's 360 degree, top-down perspective is particularly handy when backing out of tight quarters. The new wrinkle since the last time I'd used this system



Fully redesigned for last year's model, the Nissan Maxima returns for 2017 to compete with others in the upward leaning full-size segment such as the Acura TLX, Hyundai Azera and Toyota Avalon.

is the inclusion of moving object detection, which gives visual and audio alerts when anything is moving near the vehicle.

Like many upward leaning models, Maxima's controls are many, and most are clustered in and around the center stack. Collectively, the touchscreen and supporting buttons are better than average in terms of layout and ease of use. Sharing that space is a storage bin sized and shaped to hold smartphones, which also houses a pair of USB ports. A two-pane (front one opens) panoramic moon roof nicely brightens the rear cabin as well as the front. It's standard on SL trim levels and up, and a retractable shade can be deployed if you'd

rather stay under cover.

New for 2017 is an available Medallion package (\$1,345), that contributes another layer of luxury items (external ground lighting, interior accent lighting, illuminated kick plates, rear deck lid spoiler and model-specific, 18-inch alloy rims). A similarly equipped package is offered for SV grade models, where it's known as the Dynamic package. These two new accessory value packages join the previously available Midnight Edition, for Maxima buyers seeking a more personalized ride. As the name suggests, the latter — available only on SR grade cars — does it up in black. Black rear deck spoiler, rear diffuser and 19-inch aluminum

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Maxima feels reasonably agile, with an enjoyably smooth ride that would suit the majority of its buyers.

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