

Ford's big future for small cars

PAGE 4



Tesla to leadfoots: Chill out!

PAGE 4



Is Toyota teasing us with this sportster?

PAGE 4



The area's most complete automotive resource and listings.

2,882 vehicles for sale inside — plus more than 7,000 online at timesunion.com/cars

Automotive

timesunion.com/cars

Who are the area's best auto salespersons?

PAGE 5

TEST DRIVE

Rio, Refined

2018 Kia Rio EX

DAN LYONS | text
Special to the Times Union

This week's test drive is on the Kia Rio. Redesigned for 2018, this is the fourth generation of Kia's entry level model. As before, Rio is offered in either four-door sedan or five-door hatchback body styles.

The new sheet metal hangs nicely on the subcompact. On a little car, that's no small thing. It's hard to shrink a good design down to a condensed canvas, but Kia's managed it well: Rio has clean, modern lines. Size-wise, Rio 4.0 is slightly longer, wider and lower than the previous version. Five-door hatchbacks are considerably shorter (160 inches) than are the four-doors (172 inches). Three trim levels are available — LX, S, EX. Prices start at \$13,900 for an LX with manual transmission (the only Rio that offers a stick), and rise to \$16,100 for an S, topping off at \$18,400 for an EX five-door like my test car.

The 1.6L four-cylinder engine carries over from last



2018 Kia Rio EX

MSRP: \$ 13,990 (LX), \$ 16,100 (S), \$18,400 (EX)

year, but has been massaged for max mileage. An automatic equipped 1.6L like the one I drove is expected to return 28 mpg's city/37 highway/32 combined. That compares with last year's EPA expectations of 27/36/31. In a trip that was split about 90 percent highway/10 percent city driving, I netted 39 miles per gallon. A nice



REDESIGNED FOR 2018, the Kia's fourth generation Rio is available in both four-door sedan and five-door hatchback. The entry level offering is powered by a 1.6L four-cylinder engine returning mileage of 28 city/37 highway.

number, considering that I wasn't loafing.

The giveback for the bump-up in fuel economy is some horsepower. The current model's 130 horsepower and 119 lb.-ft. of torque compares with last year's 138/123. The difference isn't apparent in driving. Rio is an economy car, and as the numbers suggest, it is stingy with a gallon of gas. But, it can get out of its own way, and had no problem keeping up with traffic or passing when called to.

The motor is a little loud when throttled, but cruises calmly. The six-speed automatic transmission matches well with the motor, and while I like the idea that Kia is still offering a model with a manual transmission (also a six-speed), I'd like it even more if they extended that possibility to all trim levels, not just the base car. New suspension geometry

makes for an agile small car, with a firm, comfortable ride.

Inside, Rio's cargo hold is a tale of two body styles. The sedan can swallow 13.7 cubic-feet of gear in its trunk, while hatchbacks can pack 17.4-32.8 cu.-ft. under cover. The rear seatbacks fold flat forward, though it results in a two-tier load floor, with the folded-seat section sitting slightly higher than the rest of the trunk. Lifter height is manageable low in back; you may have to push the front seats forward to get the rear seats to clear.

Driver visibility is good. Controls for basic functions are within easy reach. All HVAC functions are accessed via three dials center stage in the center stack. Top-level EX cars trade their base sound system with 5-inch display for a 7-inch

Continued on page 4



NEW 2017 Maserati Levante

Auto, V6, Stk#M245, MSRP \$81,275

\$599 Per Mo. LEASE 39 Mos.

Available to qualified buyers†
\$5,000 Due at Inception OR your equivalent trade
\$0 Security Deposit

NEW 2017 Maserati Ghibli SQ4

Auto, V6, Stk# M241, MSRP \$87,570

\$599 Per Mo. LEASE 36 Mos.

Available to qualified buyers†
\$5,000 Due at Inception OR your equivalent trade
\$0 Security Deposit

0% APR Financing available up to 72 months! Available to qualified buyers†



MASERATI OF ALBANY

1101 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12205 518-313-0770

MaseratiOfAlbany.com

A PROUD MEMBER OF DEPAULA AUTO GROUP

Offers with approved credit plus tax, title & mv fees. 1 Ghibli/1 Levante available at this price. *Closed end leases, Ttl pymt: Ghibli \$21,564/ Levante \$23,361 Purch opt: Ghibli \$43,785/ Levante \$43,888.50 Leases incl 7.5K mi/yr, \$0.30 each add'l mi. Lessee resp for maint & excess wear & tear. †Financing ex: 17 Ghibli SQ4, Auto V6, Stk# M241 MSRP \$87,570, \$0 down 0% Annual Percentage Rate. 72 Mo. Term, \$1,216.25 per mo. On Ghibli and Levante models only. See dealer for complete details. †Lease and finance payments subject to primary lender approval. Must have a minimum FICO® credit score of 730 to qualify. Prices & incentives based on current manufacturer's programs, which are subject to change. See dealer for details. Photos are for illustrative purposes only. Offers cannot be combined. Expires 11/30/17