

Lyons on Wheels

by Dan Lyons • *Special to The Daily Gazette*

2023 Lincoln Corsair

MSRP: \$38,690 (Standard) \$43,075 (Reserve) \$53,885 (Grand Touring PHEV) As Tested: \$65,970



Corsair is the gateway offering in the Lincoln lineup. The compact luxury SUV slots in beneath Nautilus, Aviator and Navigator. This is year three for the first generation Corsair, and a trio of trim levels are available: Standard, Reserve and Grand Touring. All Wheel Drive is standard equipment on Grand Touring, and optional on the remaining two models.

This is a luxury Sport Utility Vehicle, and Lincoln accents luxury over sport. While it corners capably and wouldn't object to some light off-roading, Corsair targets what matters most to those shopping this segment - comfort, class, and the capability to carry people and/or cargo. Under the hood, Lincoln has dropped the former, optional 2.3 turbo four cylinder engine from the Corsair menu. The 2023 Standard and Reserve models get a 2.0L turbocharged four, linked to an 8-speed automatic transmission. It's rated at 250 horsepower and 275 lb.-ft. of torque. EPA estimates fuel economy at 22/30/25 (FWD) and 21/28/24 (AWD), and 0-60 times that I've seen peg Corsairs so specified in the low 6-second range. Grand Touring models are plug-in hybrids. The powertrain combines a 2.5L Atkinson-cycle inline four cylinder gas engine, with a pair of electric motors, and a 14.4-kWh battery, channeled through a CVT. Combined system horsepower is 266. Posted 0-60 times check in about a second behind the gas engine models. In practice, my Corsair PHEV tester felt sufficiently quick when needed (engine noise a bit more noticeable at full throttle than some competitors in class), and cruised easily at highway speeds. EPA data for the 2023 Corsair isn't available as of this writing, but the numbers should mirror the 2022 estimates: 78 MPGe (electric and gas), 34/32/33 (gas only). Corsair is estimated to have an all-electric range of 28 miles. The plug-in hybrid can be fully recharged in about 10-11 hours on



Photos courtesy of the manufacturer



standard, household current. With a level 2 charger (240-v), a full recharge can be achieved in 3-4 hours. In addition to the four, standard driving modes offered on all Corsairs, Grand Touring models have an additional two, aimed at how/when to use your volts. Pure EV mode allows all electric power, while the Preserve EV setting saves stored battery power for later use.

Particularly in Grand Touring trim, Corsair's quiet cabin presents nicely. Inside updates on all models for 2023 include the addition of a 12.3-inch instrument cluster, and the Sync 4 infotainment system, with a 13.2-inch center touchscreen. The learning curve for managing the controls is average for the class. Lincoln collects many of their driver assistance technologies under the heading of Co-Pilot360. The base grouping (including features like rear view camera, parking sensors, blind spot monitoring, adaptive cruise control and lane centering), is included on all Corsairs. The second, available layer - Co-Pilot360 Vision - adds a 360-degree camera system, additional parking sensors and reverse brake assist. Finally, Co-Pilot360 Drive includes all of the above, plus Lincoln's advanced driving assistance system (known as ActiveGlide), active park assist and intersection assist.

Rear seat travel is adjustable, allowing you to apportion that six inches to either the back seat passengers or the cargo bay. Corsair's Cargo capacity is 27.6-57.6 cubic-feet. Grand Touring holds about 1.5 cu.-ft. less (and has 2" less rear seat leg room), owing to storage space for the hybrid battery pack.

A fully appointed Grand Luxury is undeniably a luxurious package. But, if you don't have to have the hybrid, the Reserve level Grand Luxury has a starting sticker \$10,000 less than Grand Touring. Add a few extras like Co-Pilot360 Vision (bird's-eye camera), heated/ventilated front seats, memory mirrors and hand's-free liftgate, and you have a well dressed luxury compact SUV for under \$50,000.

A 40 year resident of the Capital District, Dan Lyons is the author of six automotive books, and photographer of more than 200 calendars.