Carguide

The 2007 Nissan Sentra - on the road to success

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Style wise, the 2007 Sentra is a crisp looking critter, and a long way from the yesterday look of the outgoing model. Instead of soft corners and rounded flanks, the new Altima looks just plain cleaner thanks to the more pronounced edges. You see that in the perpendicular cut of the rear door and even to the squared off shape of the outside mirrors. Beside the almost huge, jeweled headlights, the new Nissan "T" grille look makes the Sentra stand out from those that have gone before. I hope the editor has included a picture of the 2.0 S as tested along side the previous model to show how dramatically different the styling is. The new engine and the CVT work well together but the lack of any kind of shift feeling takes some getting used to. It's very quick off the line and comes up to cruising speed with a lot less engine noise than I noticed with the CVT in the Nissan Versa. Handling is nimble and the reassurance of ABS on tap is a good thing. Anyone ordering the base model would be well advised to spend \$500 for the optional ABS. The shifter for the CVT sprouts out from the centre instrument/control stack open-

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ing up the floor beneath that was perfect for my laptop bag. Also worth noting is the seat fabric that was in a pale grey nicely complimenting the exterior paint and gave the interior an airy atmosphere. Pricing for the base car starts at \$16,798 with the 2.0 S at \$19,498. My test 2.0 S had the optional CVT and metallic paint (\$125) plus a shipping fee of \$1,200 raising the price as tested to \$22,023. The fully equipped 2.0 SL starts at \$23,998.

With very modern styling in the vein of the 350Z and the Murano plus fuel consumption that approaches 50 mpg, the 2007 Nissan Sentra joins the team of Nissan vehicles that now ranges from the perky Versa all the way up to the Pathfinder second-seat SUV. Nissan badly needed this car to compete in the red-hot Canadian compact segment. Now that it has arrived, Nissan looks to be on the road to sales suc

