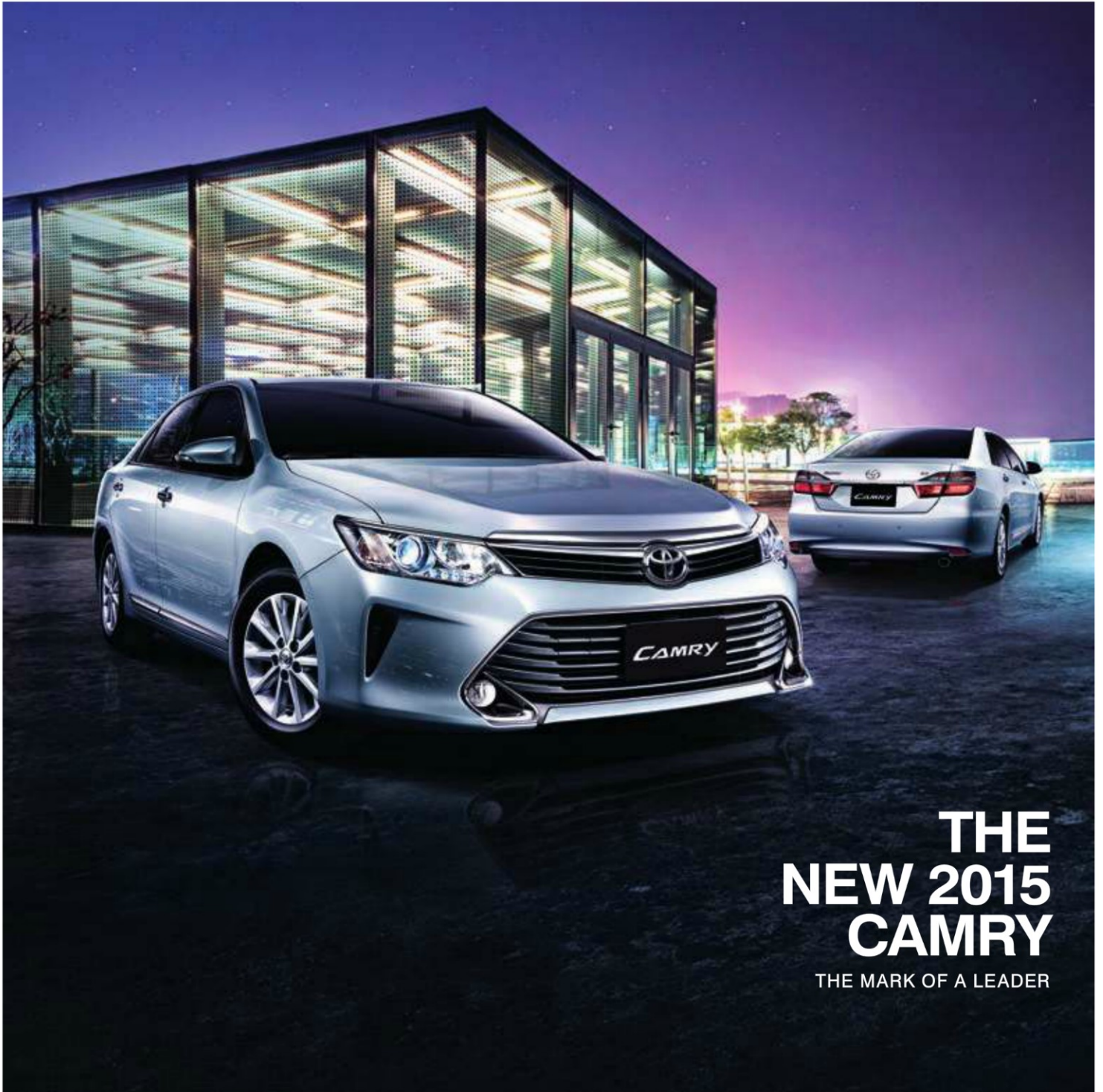


ALWAYS

ISSUE 2 / 2015

# TOYOTA



## THE NEW 2015 CAMRY

THE MARK OF A LEADER

### MEALS WITH VIEWS

Restaurants with great food  
and stunning vistas

### ITALIAN SOJOURN

Top sights in and  
around Milan

### InTouch

Our in-car digital assistant  
puts you in control



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FRONT



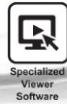
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## MARK OF A LEADER

We are approaching the second half of the year on a high note, having maintained our leadership as the top-selling brand, with Corolla Altis continuing to be Singapore's most popular model in Q1 2015\*.

We are extremely excited to introduce the new 2015 Camry, which will dramatically raise the benchmark it has already anchored in the mid-size sedan segment. Discover more about this car's enhanced appearance, features and excellent drive in Experience.

At Toyota, we pride ourselves on being Always Better. Read about how our all-new Toyota *InTouch*

Telematics System redefines driver connectivity in Feature.

In this issue, in line with the launch of the Camry, we pick out the finest experiences befitting leaders. We recommend fine restaurants with million-dollar views, and explore the intriguing city of Milan. We also feature premium equipment to up your golfing game.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy this issue, and that Toyota continues to deliver an Always Better experience to you!

*\*As reported in The Business Times Weekend on May 2, 2015*

**Koh Ching Hong**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Inchcape South Asia



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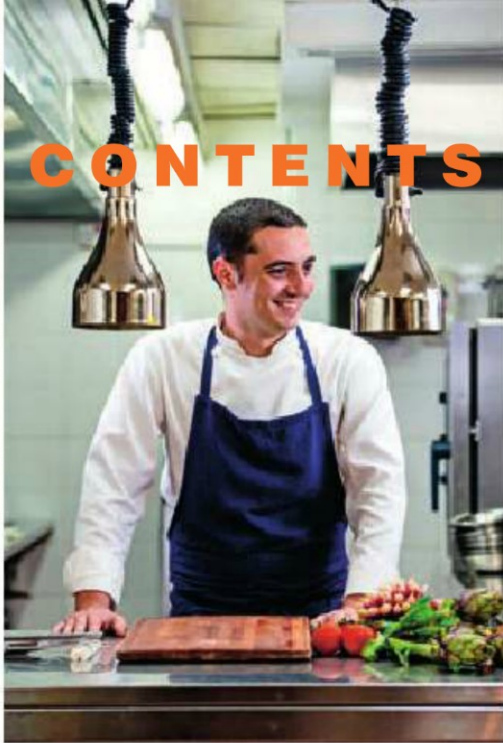


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## SINGAPORE'S NO. 1 CAR BRAND

Toyota has reclaimed the crown as the top automotive brand in the country. According to figures released by the Land Transport Authority in January, Toyota put 5,431 new cars on the road in 2014 – a 63 per cent increase from 2013.

Both Toyota and its best-selling model, the Corolla Altis, managed to extend their winning streak into Q1 2015, establishing Toyota's stronghold in the market.

# NO. 1



## COROLLA ALTIS REAPS AWARDS

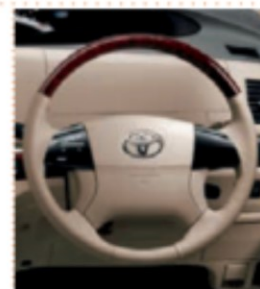
With its reliability and ease of use, there is little wonder why the Corolla Altis clinched the Best Family Saloon title at *The Straits Times-Torque Car of the Year Awards 2014*, the country's most authoritative editorial recognition of vehicular excellence. The 11th generation of the automobile was also named Singapore's top-selling passenger car for 2014. The Corolla Altis was hailed by Sgcarmart as the Sedan of the Year, not only for its new clean-cut and sophisticated design, but also for its improved driving dynamics and enhanced safety features.

# AWARD-WINNING

## AMONG THE WORLD'S MOST ADMIRABLE COMPANIES

Toyota tops the Motor Vehicles category of *Fortune* magazine's list of the world's most admired companies. The automaker came in at 24th overall (up from last year's 25th), sixth for Community Responsibility, and eighth in Effectiveness in Conducting a Global Business.

It is the only Japanese company in the overall Top 50. *Fortune's* annual survey is widely considered to be the definitive report card on corporate reputation, which is based on nine key attributes, including quality of management, social responsibility and global competitiveness.





## PAY FOR TECH

HIGH-TECH GIZMOS MIGHT BE ALL THE RAGE NOW, BUT CAR BUYERS ARE CAREFUL ABOUT PAYING FOR THESE ITEMS TO COME WITH THEIR RIDES.



**Tony Tan**  
EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTOR,  
TORQUE MAGAZINE

**B**loomberg reported recently that in a Harris poll, the majority of drivers in the US were willing to pay as much as US\$1,499 (\$2,078) to have high-tech entertainment and safety devices in their vehicles.

Not long ago, optioning out a new car was straightforward. If you wanted to add some extra value, comfort and convenience to your ride, you could ask for leather upholstery and alloy wheels. You could also gun for a decent AM/FM stereo with CD player, and a component speaker system.

### Higher expectations

With the advent of high technology, consumers today are demanding more connectivity. Drivers want more items so that they can do more – and do so more easily – while on the road.

Today's potential car owners have a dizzying range of accessories to consider. These run from multi-gigabyte in-car navigation and DVD entertainment systems to reverse cameras, intelligent keys and

automatic parking systems. And with in-vehicle Bluetooth connectivity, they can easily link up their smartphones and iPods.

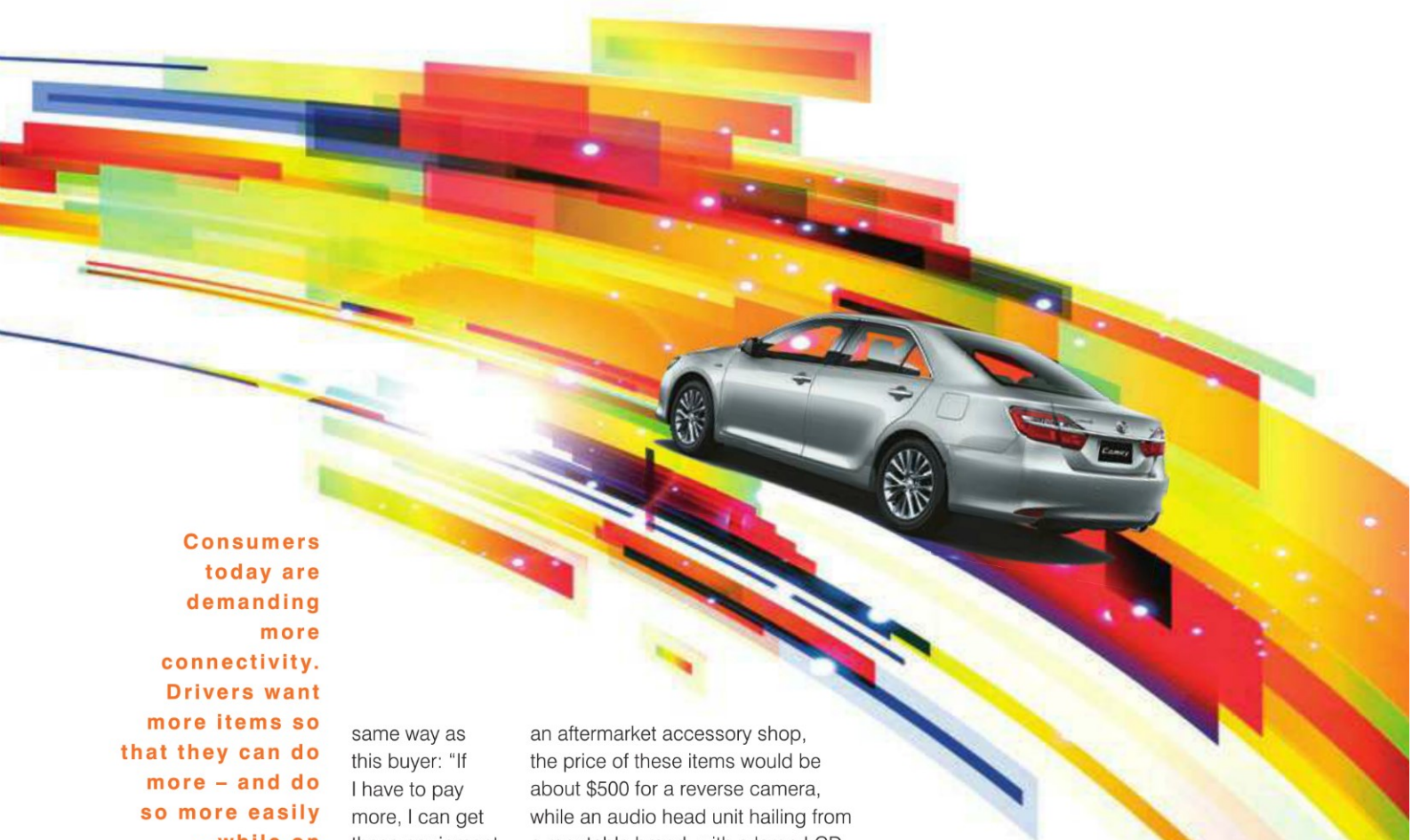
These add-ons have the potential to make owning a new car safer and more satisfying. However, are Singaporeans willing to pay extra for such options?

One would assume that the answer is "yes" as, firstly, locals are very tech-savvy and, secondly, relative to what you fork out for a car in Singapore, the additional outlay for add-ons does not amount to much, percentage-wise.

Generally, car dealers speak of two distinct types of shoppers: Buyers of less expensive rides (about \$100,000 or less) would rather do without "extras" if they had to pay more, while purveyors of higher-priced rides (more than \$250,000) generally expect these high-tech gadgets to be included in the final purchase price.

For the former, their limit was \$2,000 – or less than 2 per cent of the car's purchase price – for navigation, reverse camera and Bluetooth-enabled functions.

When asked why, many replied the



**Consumers today are demanding more connectivity. Drivers want more items so that they can do more – and do so more easily – while on the road.**

same way as this buyer: "If I have to pay more, I can get these equipment installed at a reputable car audio shop. And

an aftermarket accessory shop, the price of these items would be about \$500 for a reverse camera, while an audio head unit hailing from a reputable brand, with a large LCD touchscreen and Bluetooth connectivity, is priced about \$1,000.

#### **Big spenders**

However, there is another group of car owners who will not hesitate to splash lots of cash to have their tech fetishes fulfilled. Some of them have spent five-figure sums on just an audio system alone.

"I spend well over \$100,000 to purchase my new car and thousands more on road tax, insurance, fuel and maintenance. Paying for a good in-car entertainment system is a way for me to get maximum enjoyment out of my ride," said businessman Alvin Yew. "It takes the stress away while I'm driving, and alleviates boredom when I'm stuck in a jam. Also, the in-built hands-free feature allows me to make and take calls without running afoul of the law."

for a fraction of what I would have paid if I ordered them with my car. In fact, with my smartphone, I can even activate Google Maps, utilise its navigation feature and have the instructions broadcast via the speakers in my car.

"While it is true that a couple of thousand dollars is a mere fraction of the total cost of the car, it is still money that I can use to buy something more essential. Also, if it is navigation I want, there are smartphone apps that do the job. And if I need to make a call, a trusty earphone with a microphone will suffice."

Options like these could cost as much as \$5,000, depending on the brand and model of the vehicle and the amount of functions offered. If you brought your car to

Some fans of tech features also point out that these components make it easier to sell their cars when it comes time to do so. As one used-car salesman said: "In the 1990s, getting a good price for your car boiled down to the condition of the paintwork, engine condition and overall drivability. Nowadays, potential shoppers come prepared with information such as the list of features the vehicle came installed with, and they will check out the tech items before making a decision."

**Toyota has just launched its all-new InTouch Telematics System in its fleet of cars. For details, see pages 8 to 11**

# GAME CHANGERS

TAKE YOUR PLAY TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH THE LATEST GOLF GEAR.

WRITER **MARIE MONOZCA** PHOTOGRAPHER **WONG WEI LIANG**



**TaylorMade  
Tour Jp 4.0  
Cart Bag**  
\$498.75

Organise and protect your precious clubs with this sturdy and durable cart bag. With plenty of space and pockets, it can house all your accessories as well as other knick-knacks.

**Scotty  
Cameron Golo  
5 Putter**  
\$720

The putter of choice for many PGA Tour champs, this item enhances the weighting around the perimeter, producing a stable and smooth stroke on the putting green.

**Titleist 915  
Driver**  
From \$870

This driver's Active Recoil Channel allows the entire clubface to deflect at impact, launching the ball at high speed and low spin for longer tee shots to wow your golf buddies.

**TaylorMade  
Golf Ghost  
Tour Black  
Putter**  
\$273.75

This putter line features a deep-milled aluminum insert that offers a wider variance in sound off the clubface. Now you can differentiate more accurately between centre and off-centre contact.

**Callaway  
Chrome Soft  
Golf Balls**  
\$73.75 for  
a box of 12

You'll love  
how these

items – said to be Callaway's softest urethane golf balls ever produced – feel off the club face, and how they help you get up and down to save par.

**Callaway  
Apex Pro  
Steel Iron**  
\$1,673.75 for a  
set of 7 irons

These irons are built with high-performance,

wide-spaced grooves designed for more control and consistent spin-out of bad lies and other playing conditions.







**FootJoy  
Spectrum  
Gloves**  
\$38

FootJoy's Spectrum Cabretta leather was specially tanned to retain colour, and resist water and perspiration, while retaining a soft, comfortable feel.



**FootJoy  
Hyperflex  
Golf Shoes**  
\$270  
(Hyperflex);  
\$300  
(Hyperflex-  
BOA)

Made with the new FlexGrid 2.0

Exoskeleton, Hyperflex delivers lightweight support and cushioning, so you can play your best, be it on the fairway or in the rough.



**TaylorMade  
Tour Preferred  
Gloves**  
\$31.25

Made with AAA-grade Cabretta Soft Tech leather, these are buttery-soft and breathable. Anti-microbial and moisture-wicking properties keep clammy hands at bay, too.

**Adidas  
Adipower  
Boost Golf  
Shoes**  
\$259

These offer a comfortable but sturdy, cushioning system. Each shoe also features 25 Gripmore spikes that vary in size, giving you better traction and stability.



**TaylorMade  
Aeroburner  
Pro Golf Ball**  
\$48.50 for  
a box of 12

This three-piece ball is engineered for high ball speeds off the clubface, and designed to deliver speed and distance with pro-like stopping power.



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# THE FUTURE OF CONNECTIVITY

InTouch, TOYOTA'S LATEST IN-CAR TELEMATICS SYSTEM DELIVERS CONTROL AND PEACE OF MIND ON EVERY JOURNEY.

WRITER JOSEPH LIM PHOTOGRAPHER JASPER YU



With cars getting smarter – enhanced safety features, more humanistic interiors, greater engine efficiency that doesn't undermine driving prowess – it's expected that their entertainment systems keep up.

With the increasing pervasiveness of smartphones, the smart car of tomorrow is one that is able to synch with our prized handsets. In-car entertainment systems that merely satiate music and video cravings will not make the cut.



**Toyota's InTouch is primed for today's drivers. Its ease of use and extensive features allow you to stay connected and operate your vehicle in a safe, hands-free manner.**

Paving the way for mass market car brands, Toyota has come up with a novel and revolutionary telematics system dubbed InTouch. With amendments to the Road Traffic Act starting Feb 1, it is now an offence to hold a mobile telephone and communicate with another person while driving. This means it is a crime to text or call someone, play games or use any apps while operating a vehicle. Toyota's introduction of its telematics system is timely and relevant – it enables responsible drivers to adhere to the new traffic rules while staying connected throughout every journey.

#### First glance

By May 2015, Toyota's InTouch system will be found in 90 per cent of its models (excluding the Prius). What instantly grabs your attention is the 7-inch WVGA display boasting 800x480 resolution, coupled with its capacitive screen for highly responsive and precise finger operation. The hardware is manufactured in collaboration with Pioneer, while Android powers the software. Operating just like a smartphone, it allows you to toggle and customise widgets and apps. The software instantly

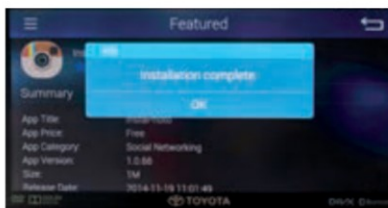
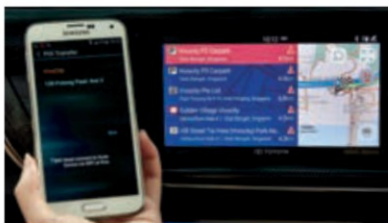
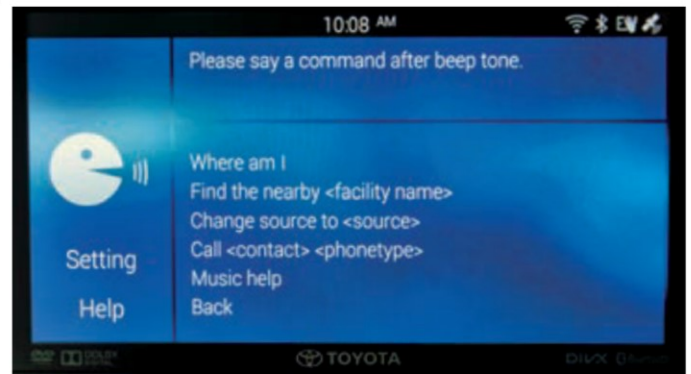
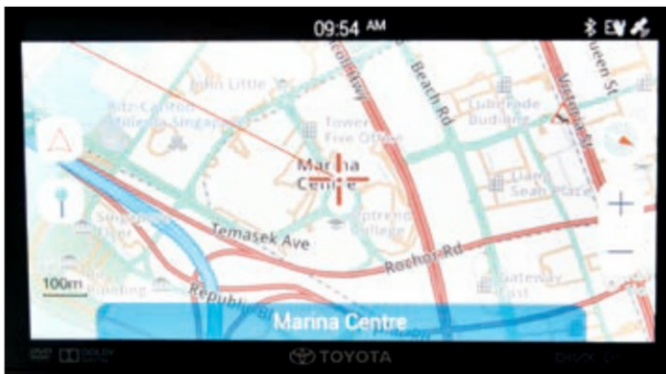


Clockwise from top left: The 7-inch WVGA display is bright and clear; with InTouch's built-in sensor, you can trigger controls with just a hand swipe; InTouch offers seamless and slick connectivity for both iOS- and Android-based devices; get up-to-date weather reports via InTouch's built-in weather app.

recognises your hand gestures like dragging, pinching, flicking, rotating and scratching with five fingers.

As hands-free operation is essential while driving, InTouch supports Air Gesture (through a motion sensor), where a swipe of your hand will enable you to control volume or scroll through map, to name a couple of features.

With Air Jump, you can scroll through a webpage by moving your hand up or down.



Clockwise from top left: **Comprehensive and detailed maps get you to your destination;** **InTouch** also accommodates voice-activated commands; **iAutostore's Point of Interest (POI) sharing from Google Maps provides detailed information about the things to do in your vicinity;** **installing apps like InstaPhoto is a breeze with iAutostore.**

With Air Browse, you can move to the next or previous item by simply swiping your hand from left to right.

#### More than hands-free

With InTouch, Bluetooth connectivity goes beyond more than just hands-free calls. You can now synchronise your vehicle with up to five user profiles, storing 1,000 names per profile. iPhone (from 5S to 6 Plus), and iPod Touch fifth generation users are not forgotten, as the device offers one micro-HDMI and one USB port each for easy connectivity.

The most attractive feature in the system is the Digital Living Network Alliance (DLNA), an efficient means to seamlessly connect with Android or iOS devices via Wi-Fi Direct (transfer of data between two devices) or Wi-Fi (transfer of data via a Wi-Fi hotspot).

For iOS, the DLNA application iMediaShare is recommended. With DLNA, you can basically enjoy music, videos and images on InTouch via your smartphone.

Another standout feature is Miracast, a means to mirror your smartphone features on InTouch's screen sans physical cables, thereby allowing you to enjoy watching videos and looking at

photos without the mess. Road trips are a breeze with Miracast, as you can quickly and efficiently load the maps onto your smartphone, hands-free.

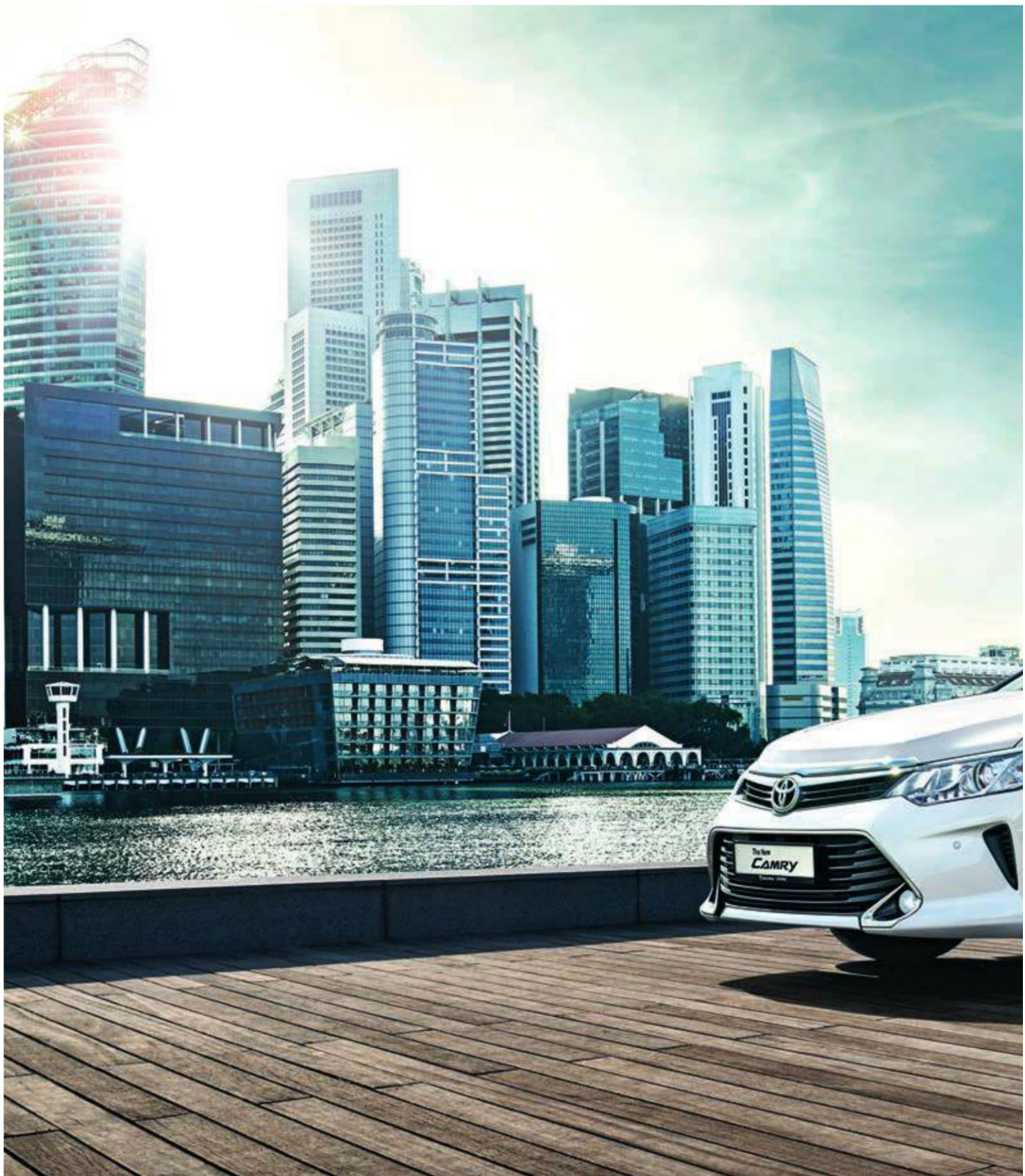
#### App-tastic

Thinking of updating apps on InTouch? With iAutostore, you can do just that via Wi-Fi. Currently recommended apps include Weather, CloudMusic, iFacebook, InstaPhoto, AutoReader, Tweet, NewsReader and iFoursquare. iAutostore's Point of Interest (POI) sharing from Google Maps from smartphone allows you to display the location on InTouch's display.

If you prefer not to use hand swipes while operating InTouch, then Voice Command will come in handy. Available in English and Mandarin, you will be able to execute pre-determined commands (music, navigation and hands-free calls) via voice.

#### Smooth ride

Toyota's InTouch is primed for today's drivers. Its ease of use and extensive features allow you to stay connected and operate your vehicle in a safe, hands-free manner. Driving with it is pure pleasure and peace of mind.



# LUXURIOUS CLASS LEADER

REFRESHED AND UPGRADED, THE NEW TOYOTA CAMRY PROVES WHY IT'S THE TRUE MARK OF A LEADER.

WRITER KEVIN CHIN PHOTOGRAPHS TAN WEI TE & BORNEO MOTORS SINGAPORE



**A**fter driving the new Toyota Camry for a couple of days, my wife and I concluded that the whole Camry experience is highly similar to other luxurious, more premium cars, and undoubtedly sets itself apart from its predecessors.

Having previously reviewed the excellent new Toyota Corolla Altis, I had, understandably, high hopes for the automaker's newest flagship. The car's chief engineer, Masato Katsumata, speaks of how the term "advanced luxury" was the key ideology during its design process. Like the Corolla Altis, the Camry was keen to shed its "uncle" image and build a luxury car for an overall "younger, savvier and more sophisticated audience".

To be honest, the Camry didn't need much tweaking. After all, it was the best-selling car in its class for 10 years running. The mere mention of its name conjures up traits like quality, spaciousness, value and reliability. But despite its accolades, the ever-evolving needs of customers drove Toyota to luxuriously furnish the seventh-generation Camry and equip it with the most advanced drive ever produced.

Reviewed here is the 2.0L model. While this may be the base variant, it's generously equipped with features such as keyless entry, rain-sensing wipers, daytime running lights with auto-levelling, LED tail and headlamps, cruise control, reverse camera with surround parking sensors, and eight-way power front seats with lumbar support.

The biggest technological leap for this Camry is the 2.0 D4S VVT-iW

#### CAMRY 2.0L

##### Engine

16-valve DOHC 1,998cc, chain drive, with VVT-iW (intake) and VVT-i (exhaust)

##### Power

164bhp/6,500rpm

##### Torque

199Nm/4,600rpm

##### Transmission

6-speed super ECT

##### Fuel consumption

7.1L/100km

##### CO2 emissions

167g/km

##### Also available in

2.5L

2.5L Hybrid



Left: New soft-blue interior lighting.  
Above: The new Camry features quality, spaciousness, value and reliability.





engine. It utilises Direct Injection 4 Stroke (D-4S) technology that uses precise fuel injection to create a homogeneous fuel/air mixture. Depending on the engine's load, the system switches between port and direct injection, or, if needed, employs both simultaneously for increased power, smoothness and charging efficiency.

Also new to Toyota's renowned VVT-i (Variable Valve Timing Intelligent) engine is the inclusion of a 'W' ('Wide') at the end. What this means is the engine's intake valves now have a wider operating opening/closing range. Couple that with the new Atkinson cycle the engine is running on –

its predecessor was on the standard Otto cycle – and you have an extremely efficient engine, which translates to better economy.

With 164bhp/6,500rpm and 199Nm/4,600 of torque, the engine pulls decently from low down the rev range, and its power delivery is smooth and linear all the way to the top. The gear changes from the new 6-speed automatic transmission (formerly only 4-speed) are intuitive and complement the engine perfectly. The engine impresses with its power and refinement, requiring minimal effort for quick overtakes. Best of all, the car returned a class-leading fuel economy figure of 13.5km/L in combined



**With the latest model's newfound "imperialness" and refinement, the new Camry definitely sets a new standard for the true mark of a leader.**

driving conditions, just shy of the claimed figure of 14km/L, which is remarkable considering its size and power.

So far so good, then. But it's when you get going that you experience the impeccable ride quality that differentiates the Camry from its predecessors and rivals. Engineers have refined the acoustics of the car and calibrated the suspension such that every journey is as quiet and comfortable as possible. With the exception of very slight road/tyre noise at higher motorway speeds, the car is silent on the move, meaning occupants hardly need to raise their voices to be heard. Plush, well-controlled and wonderfully resolved, the Camry rides like a luxury limo costing two to three times more.

Meanwhile, this vehicle's cabin is rejuvenated and more refined. The extravagant interior is fitted with soft-touch materials, leather and classy wood, and

chrome trimmings.

The driving position feels spot-on, with the new eight-way power seats giving the driver near-limitless range of adjustment. The all-new 4.2-inch full-colour, high-definition, multi-information display in front of the driver is a pleasant surprise. Throw in the all-new cool, soft-blue interior lighting, and you have yourself a surprisingly lavish and pampering place to be in. Rear passengers aren't left out of the experience either. They get rear air-con vents as standard and plenty of head and leg room.

Until recently, the Camry's impressive equipment list was found only in more expensive and premium luxury sedans. One of its premium new features is the **InTouch** Telematics Infotainment system. Besides voice command, in-built navigation, Bluetooth and a new Air Gesture capability – which allows you to switch between radio channels, control volume and answer calls



This page, from top: 10-spoke sports rims; the new Camry's first-ever full colour TFT Optitron instrument panel; the trapezoidal front grille is flanked by distinctive headlights.



Opposite page, from top: The Camry 2.0 boasts a new InTouch Telematics system; the car incorporates new VVT-iW (Wide) technology.



by simply waving your hands over the screen, drivers will find voice command particularly useful. Need directions to the airport? Simply say "Navigate to Changi Airport" clearly and the on-board navigation will automatically plot the shortest route there. Need to check on the kids? Say "Call home" and the system will dial the number and enable you to talk hands-free.

Noteworthy too is the Camry's green credentials. Emitting just 167g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>, the car doesn't incur any additional surcharges under the revised Carbon Emissions-based Vehicle Scheme come July 1.

On the bends, the vehicle is composed and well-judged. Although not designed for sportier shenanigans, it more than holds its own when push comes to shove, with responsive steering and a well-managed body roll. But the best way to enjoy this automobile is to just sit back and soak in its comfortable, almost indulgent drive.

And what's a new model without a major facelift? Like the Corolla Altis, Toyota has made its intention clear that it's out to capture hearts as well as minds with a bold and purposeful face for the Camry, which is accentuated by a new trapezoidal front grille flanked by new, distinctive headlights, with LED daytime running lights.

While the old model's looks didn't necessarily set hearts alight, the new car is more elegant, sophisticated and attention-grabbing, especially with redesigned 16-inch (2.0) and 17-inch (2.5 and Hybrid) sports spoke rims. The new Camry exudes style and flair like never before.

This vehicle has always been the class leader when it comes to mixing value and luxury. Add to that Toyota's reputation of quality, reliability and dependability, and you've got yourself a luxury sedan that can more than hold its own against the big boys.

With the latest model's newfound "imperialness" and refinement, the new Camry definitely sets a new standard for the true mark of a leader.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

WE EXPLORE THE NEW 'ADVANCED LUXURY' DESIGN CONCEPT BEHIND THE NEW TOYOTA CAMRY

WRITER KEVIN CHIN



Like its name suggests, the new Camry – which means “crown” in Japanese – promises to be the crown jewel of the Toyota range, with a level of luxury, refinement and technology never before seen in a car in this segment. No expense has been spared to ensure the latest seventh-generation Camry retains its class-leading status. Featuring an all-new design concept, it aims to win over a whole new generation of fans.

The new model’s design brief was simple: a luxury flagship with an unmatched offering of luxury, space and value, coupled with Toyota’s legendary strengths of quality, durability and reliability. The car needed to offer unparalleled levels of equipment to cater to a younger, more demanding demographic. The objective was to build a car that exemplified ‘advanced luxury’ – a term that would be the driving force behind its design.

Camry Chief Designer Masato Katsumata elaborates: “With each new model, we are constantly striving to make the car even better. And so it is constantly evolving – along with the changing needs of our customers – in order to give them the best.”

Katsumata adds that the vehicle’s target audience is younger, savvier and more sophisticated. Five key areas were

highlighted for improvement to reflect this change: styling, engine performance and economy, driving dynamics, comfort and noise, and safety features.

### Styling

Aesthetically, the new Camry’s bold face dominates the revitalised exterior, which is accentuated by two design concepts Toyota terms them the “keen look”, for its upper grille and headlights, and the “under priority”, for its lower trapezoidal grille.

For the first time, the automobile fronts distinctive LED daytime running lights that accentuate its stylish new grille, reinforced by sporty fog lamps and a chrome bar up front that runs its entire width.

**“Our customers’ requirement for a luxury vehicle has become even more refined, and the new Camry has evolved to meet those needs, thanks to its ‘advanced luxury’.”**

**CHIEF ENGINEER  
MASATO KATSUMATA**





All these come together to give the car a wider, more luxurious stance. Innovative and prestigious, its improved looks redefine its luxury sedan tag.

Inside, the sophisticated cabin boasts a first-ever 4.2-inch full-colour TFT Optitron instrument panel, utilising self-illuminating vacuum-fluorescent tube needles to provide outstanding clarity in all conditions, and cool, soft-blue interior lighting. These fall perfectly in line with the interior's "high-tech and craftsmanship" styling theme.

For an even greater emphasis on luxury, the Camry comes with eight-way power-front seats, soft, perforated leather seats, and a dash layout decked out in lavish wood and chrome accents.

#### **Engine performance and economy**

While the new version's visual upgrades certainly command attention, Katsumata knows that how a car drives is still at the very core of the whole experience. That is why it comes with a choice of three cutting-edge powertrains: a high-efficiency 2.0-litre petrol, an advanced 2.5-litre petrol, and a range-topping 2.5L hybrid. All three are designed to be more powerful and efficient than ever before.

Aiding this is a new 6-speed Super Electronic Control Transmission in the

2.0L and 2.5L variants for smoother, more precise gear shifts. The 2.0-litre engine clocks an impressive fuel economy of just 14km/L, making it one of the most thermally efficient natural-aspirated engines in the market. Furthermore, the 2.5-litre hybrid has a class-leading consumption figure of 19.6km/L, and emits 119g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>, making it eligible for a \$10,000 rebate under the new CEV Scheme after July 1, 2015.

#### **Driving dynamics**

Not content with lower fuel economy and emissions figures, Katsumata was relentless in his pursuit of driving pleasure. To achieve this, the Camry sports numerous handling enhancements like performance dampers on selected models, improved aerodynamic bodywork to improve stability, and a new electric power-assisted steering for better responsiveness and feel.

In fact, so confident is he of the car's newfound abilities that he challenges anyone who still thinks the Camry is purely a luxurious means of transport.

"When customers drive the car, I want them to turn as they would expect to turn on winding roads and experience the agility of the suspension," he said. "I want them to feel the sense of fun and

safety that comes from driving a car that responds exactly as they command, with confident and accurate steering, linear acceleration response, excellent straight-line stability at high speeds, and strong stopping power."

#### **Comfort and noise**

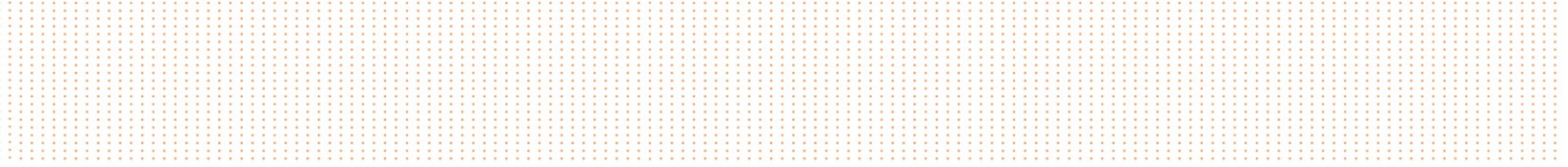
Despite the vehicle's dynamic abilities, occupants can still expect the famed refinement and comfort Camrys are renowned for. Except this time, dedicated sound engineers have worked tirelessly to further suppress noises that interfere with the sound of the human voice to ensure a near-silent ride. The Hybrid boasts excellent acoustics with its state-of-the-art 10-speaker JBL Surround Sound entertainment system.

#### **Safety features**

Topping off the car's first-class credentials are useful features like Hill Start Assist, Emergency Brake Signal, and four (2.0) and seven (2.5 and Hybrid) airbags, which are standard across all variants. The Hybrid has additional features that are commonly seen in more premium luxury brands, such as the Blind Spot Monitor and Rear Cross Traffic Alert.

Even though the Camry has been the best-seller in its class for a decade, Katsumata believes that every new Camry has to push the limits of luxury and technology. He said: "Our customers' requirements for a luxury vehicle have become ever more refined, and the new Camry has evolved to meet those needs, thanks to its 'advanced luxury'."





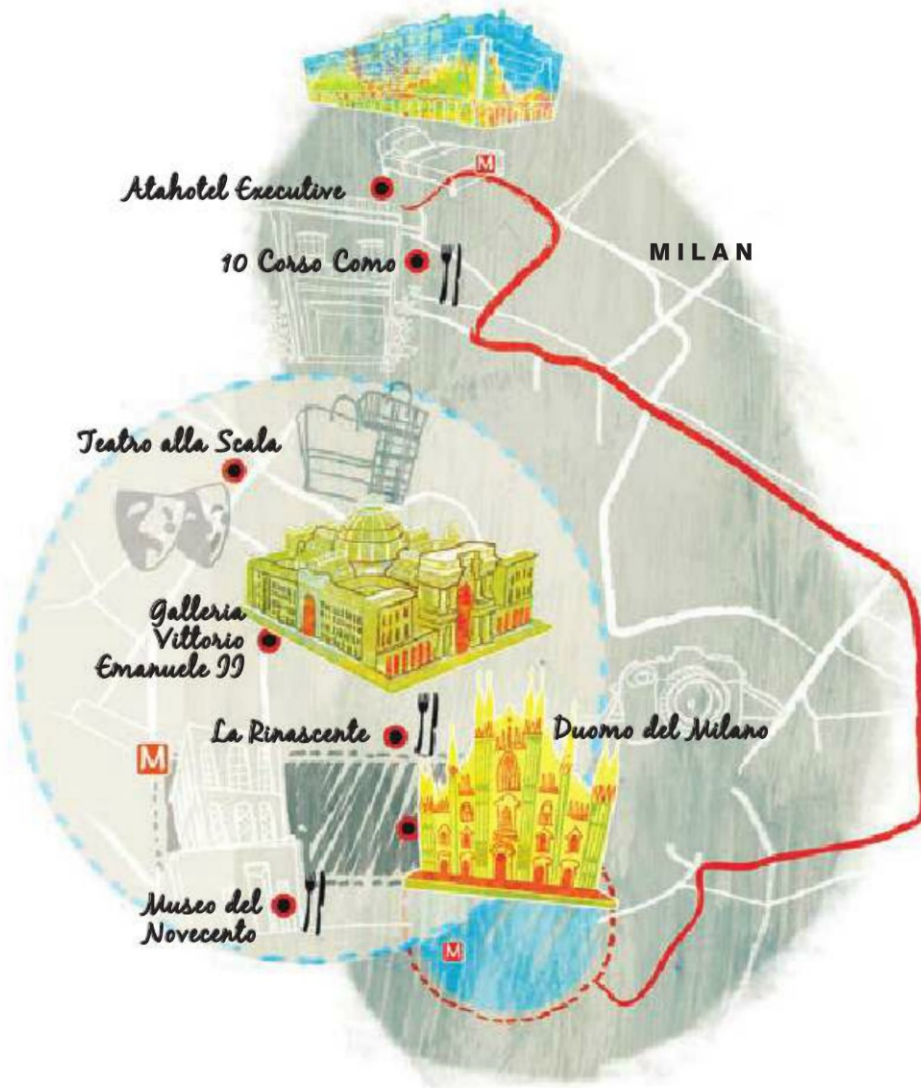
## ALL EYES ON MILAN

ITALY'S BUSINESS CAPITAL ISN'T ALL WORK AND NO PLAY. THERE'S PLENTY TO EXPLORE IN THE CITY, AND A GREAT DAY TRIP JUST OUTSIDE IT.

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WRITER **CHIQUIT TORRENTE**

**M**ilan – it is not often the choice as a tourist destination. While travellers flock to Italy's many romantic cities – Rome, Florence and Venice are perennial favourites – the country's second-largest metro, and its financial heart, is often ignored. The city, located in Italy's Lombardy region, is the home base of luxury fashion houses such as Prada and Armani; furniture brands like Kartell, B&B Italia and Giorgetti; and automotive industry names such as Pirelli and Alfa Romeo. If you're going to Milan, you are most likely going there on a business trip.



The city isn't all business, however – even though its intimidatingly chic citizens and stylishly sombre buildings look it. There's plenty of eye candy, especially if you're into luxury brands and designer things, architecture included.

Everywhere you go, there is culture. There are month-long booking queues for tickets to see Leonardo Da Vinci's *The Last Supper* or whatever opera is on at Teatro alla Scala. But if you're there for a few days' worth of meetings, do take an afternoon or two off to explore the city like we did.

We stayed at the **Atahotel Executive** near the Porta Garibaldi Station. Its ideal address on Via Luigi Sturzo allows you to easily take the Malpensa Express from the Malpensa Airport almost directly to the hotel's driveway. Or in between business meetings, go on a five-minute train ride to the Piazza del Duomo.

#### Afternoon delights

If your business associates in Milan are gracious hosts (and they usually are),





Clockwise from left: **The Duomo is one of Milan's most visited sites; Head for the shops around the Piazza del Duomo for the best of Italian brands; Enjoy a marocchino at one of Milan's sidewalk cafes.**

they might take you to lunch at **Giacomo Arengario**, the swanky, super-stylish restaurant inside the Museo del Novecento (the Museum of Twentieth Century). It's also worth a splurge to go on your own. The food is contemporary Italian, so you have that photogenic plating, but not that rustic, authentic look and feel you'd expect from Italian cuisine. The real attractions of this restaurant are its front-seat views of the Piazza del Duomo (cathedral square), and the Duomo del Milano (Milan Cathedral) and its glamorous-looking crowd. This is a see-and-be-seen type of place.

If you're on a more modest per diem, cross the piazza over to La Rinascente, the city's designer-chic department store.

**A Gothic cathedral, Milan's Duomo is the largest church in Italy. Construction began in 1386 and was only fully completed in 1965.**

A must-see, especially if you have no time to shop on Via Montenapoleone (we'll get to that later), it's a luxury store that collaborates with local designers for special showcases, especially during Fashion Week and Milan Design Week.

La Rinascente's rooftop cafe also looks out to the Duomo. Even if you're just having a panini and marocchino (an espresso topped with foamed milk and cocoa), you'll feel like a sophisticated Milanese amid the glossy interiors.

After lunch, visit the Duomo. There's no entrance fee to get inside Milan's historic church, but if you want to go up to the roof, you'll need to buy a ticket.

A Gothic cathedral, it is the largest church in Italy. Construction began in 1386, and was only fully completed in 1965! It is currently undergoing conservation works, so you may see scaffoldings around its facade – although, it is likely that they have been removed to showcase the Duomo at its grandest during the **Expo 2015/Milan World's Fair** from now to October this year.

From the Duomo, walk through the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II (it faces the Piazza), one of the world's oldest shopping malls, to get to the Piazza della Scala. If you're lucky, you can faintly hear musicians rehearsing inside La Scala, as it is most popularly known.

Follow the street, Via A Manzoni (La Scala should be on your left), and you will reach Via Montenapoleone after a few short, scenic blocks. This is the place to shop for luxury brands.

If shopping is not your thing, then turn left at Via Giuseppe Verdi at the corner of La Scala, instead of walking down Via A Manzoni. This will lead you to the creative enclave of Brera, where you can wander the streets to your heart's content.



Take a peek into show fashion, furniture showrooms, arty offices and the Pinacoteca di Brera (Brera Art Gallery). For the 10-euro entrance fee, you'll see works by the Italian masters Tintoretto, Raphael, Caravaggio and more.

Connected to the gallery is the Brera Academy, where students from all over the world come to learn architecture and art. During Milan Design Week, this place is the site of one of the bustling fringe events, where Italy's up-and-coming industrial designers are showcased. You can walk from Brera to Via Montenapoleone for shopping, too.

Find your way back to the **Atahotel Executive** – take the metro from Via Montenapoleone to Garibaldi, or hop into a taxi if you've done a lot of shopping – to freshen up and stash your buys. Around 6pm is happy hour, and design and fashion store **10 Corso Como**, a breezy 15-minute walk from the hotel, is one of the hottest places for aperitivo or happy hour. It boasts a bookstore, lifestyle shop and design gallery.

When you're done shopping, head for the in-house cafe-restaurant-bar. Be sure to try the campari and negroni. Bars in Milan prepare complimentary antipasto (cheese, sausages, crostini) for aperitivo, which roughly translates to "opens your

stomach". Backpackers and budget-strapped students usually treat this as a free dinner, but it's really just a teaser.

#### Day tripper

Set aside one day during your trip to see Lake Como. Once a weekend playground for rich Milanese, it has become a tourist attraction after some Hollywood stars bought vacation houses there. The area's most popular foreign resident is George Clooney. Sir Richard Branson and Madonna are reported to have luxury homes there, too.

The city of Como is about an hour's drive from Milan; 48 minutes if there's smooth traffic on the autostrades (highway) A8 and A9 connecting to route E35. There isn't much to see along the highway, although the petrol stations you'll spot every now and then serve excellent espressos.

It's when you get into the small roads, like the E35, that you'll see terracotta-

**Top left: If you're not planning on stopping at museums and shops, try pedalling around the city on one of the many bike-share cycles. Top right: Part of the hip collection at 10 Corso Como. Opposite page: Picturesque Lake Como is well worth the hour's drive from Milan.**



#### CITY CRUISING IN THE NEW CAMRY

Toyota's new Camry offers luxury, refinement and technology in its design concept. The model with a revitalised exterior and sophisticated interior is marked by Toyota's renowned DNA of quality, durability and reliability. Cruising in the new Camry certainly exudes the mark of a leader.



## WHERE TO GO

### Atahotel Executive

Via Don Luigi Sturzo,  
45, 20154 Milano  
TEL: +39 (0)6-6964-6964

### Bagutta

Via Bagutta, 14, 20121  
Milano Zona Centro  
TEL: +39 (0)2-7600-2767

### Il Cafe

Via Santa Radegonda,  
7th floor, La Rinascenta  
20121 Milan  
TEL: +39 (0)3-9028-8521

### Giacomo Arengario

Via Guglielmo Marconi,  
1, 20123 Milan  
TEL: +39 (0)2-7209-3814

### 10 Corso Como

Corso Como,  
10, 20154 Milano  
Restaurant:  
TEL: +39 (0)2-2901-3581

### Ristorante Il Gatto Nero

Via Monte Santo  
69, 22012 Cernobbio  
TEL: +39 (0)31-512042

### Expo 2015/

#### Milan World's Fair

From now to Oct 31, Milan hosts Expo 2015, also called the Milan World's Fair. Fittingly, for a country known for its cuisine, the theme of this Expo is "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", with the main topics being nutrition and food production.

roofed houses and trellised gardens. As you near the lake, they become grander. Lake Como boasts 19th century villas – one of which is said to be Clooney's – along its perimeter.

While there is a train service from Milan, going by car is the best way to see the lake region. Drive around at your own leisurely pace, then head to Cernobbio, a hilly commune on the lake border. Ferry tours around the lake can be arranged at the train station in Como.

Il Gatto Nero, in the hills of Cernobbio, is a restaurant that overlooks the lake. Be sure to make a lunch or dinner reservation – it's got the perfect mix of breathtaking view, romantic and rustic interiors, great food and a celebrity guest list.

#### Milan drive-by

Time your return to Milan from Como in the evening, so you can drive around the city before you return your rental car. At night, there are fewer vehicles on the road, and

architectural lighting – especially in the Via Montenapoleone and Duomo areas – casts a romantic, gothic glow against the moulded facades of the buildings.

For your last meal in the city, try **Bagutta** on Via Bagutta, off Via Montenapoleone. The 90-year-old trattoria is an institution not only in Milan's culinary scene but in its literary and art circles as well.

A group of journalists and writers founded the Bagutta Prize, Italy's first literary prize, over dinner here in 1924. They have been immortalised in the colourful murals throughout the restaurant by a painter and set designer for La Scala, Mario Vellani Marchi.

**Bagutta** is the place to go for a classic veal Milanese, and for dessert, gelato served with fresh fruit.

Next time you're in the city for work, set aside a little time for play, too. As the Italians say: "Vivere, amare e mangiare bene" – live, love and eat well!



## MEALS WITH VIEWS

WANT A NIGHT OUT WITH KILLER VISTAS WITHOUT A KILLER PRICE TAG? JUST LOOK UP.

WRITER JOYCE HUANG



Many top restaurants in Singapore take advantage of the skyscrapers that dot our island, opting for peak locations to provide mesmerising dining backdrops that look out across the island. Yet, unlike what many assume, having a meal at these establishments does not mean that your dining bill will be equally sky-high. We have rounded up some of the best spots, so get ready to look up and tuck in.

**Stellar**

Level 62,  
1 Raffles Place  
Reservations:  
info@1-altitude.com

**OPENING HOURS:**

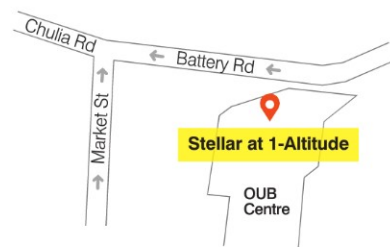
Mon-Fri: 11.30am to 2.30pm, 6.30pm to 10pm;  
Sat: 6pm to 10pm;  
Sun: 6pm to 9pm

**STAR POWER:**

As a Krug Ambassade, Stellar offers diners exceptional pours from the luxury champagne house.

**PRICE POINT:**

From \$44 for a three-course lunch; starters from \$24, mains from \$44

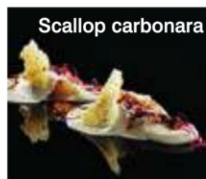


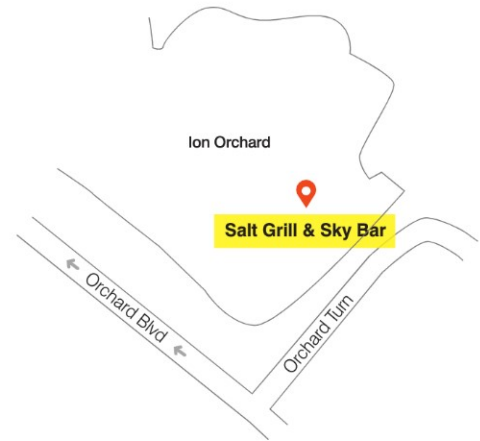
Part of the aptly named 1-Altitude multi-concept lifestyle destination, Stellar provides quite the visual treat for diners. Firstly, there is the open kitchen in the middle of the restaurant where you can watch the chefs at work.

Secondly, the dishes that are served up resemble exquisite art pieces. Order the dessert experience and you'll even get an up-close theatrical show as the chefs plate up your platter right at your table. And, lastly, there is the expansive view that stretches the length and breadth of Singapore... and beyond.

Group executive chef Christopher Millar's gastronomic menu features a wide range of dishes, such as the umami-rich toro truffle miso, the delightfully playful scallop "carbonara", the poached Maine lobster risotto, and the salt beef with oxtail and savoy cabbage gratin and forest mushrooms.

Meat lovers, zoom in on the mouthwatering platters – carved at your table – which include Kobe cuisine rib-eye and Iberico pork rack. You can design your own five-, six- or seven-course tasting menu, or choose the three- and four-course set lunch options.





**Salt Grill & Sky Bar**

Level 55 & 56  
 Ion Orchard,  
 2 Orchard Turn  
**Reservations:**  
[www.saltgrill.com](http://www.saltgrill.com)

**OPENING HOURS:**  
 Daily 11am to 11pm

**STAR POWER:**  
 Highlighting the best of modern Australian cuisine, Salt is Australian chef, restaurateur and television personality Luke Mangan's first foray into the Singapore dining scene.

**PRICE POINTS:**  
 From \$45 for a two-course lunch; starters from \$31, mains from \$42

This modern Australian all-day restaurant occupies prime property within iconic Ion Orchard – access is only possible through a private and direct high-speed elevator. When you step into the main dining hall, what immediately

draws your eyes is the panoramic view of the city skyline afforded by the two-storey-high floor-to-ceiling glass windows. Any seat by the window may be enough to induce vertigo. For utmost privacy, book the private dining area on the 56th floor, with unobstructed views of Orchard Road and Marina Bay Sands.

Celebrity chef-restaurateur Luke Mangan brings modern Aussie cuisine to the forefront, with fresh seafood and quality meats as the mainstays. Expect refreshing starters like sashimi of kingfish, ginger, eschallot and goat's feta; and tea-smoked quail with almond cream, prunes, grains, grilled shallot and sorrel. Enjoy grilled meats and fish, from free-range Australian wagyu cuts to grilled snapper.



Crab omelette



Tea-smoked quail



Liquorice parfait

## Jaan

Level 70 Equinox Complex, Swissotel The Stamford, 2 Stamford Road  
**Reservations:** reservations@equinoxcomplex.com

### OPENING HOURS:

Mon-Sat: 12pm to 2.30pm, 7pm to 10pm.

### STAR POWER:

Thanks to talented chef Julien Royer's innovative cuisine, Jaan climbed six spots to clinch 11th place at the Asia's 50 Best Restaurants 2015 awards.

### PRICE POINTS:

From \$68 for a three-course lunch; from \$198 for a five-course dinner



Jaan is a top restaurant in more ways than one. Not only does it boast one of the city's best dining views, thanks to its location – 70th floor atop Swissotel The Stamford – it is helmed by a young and talented French chef whose cuisine has brought him much acclaim.

Born into a family of farmers going back four generations, Chef de cuisine Julien Royer has a deep-rooted love for artisanal ingredients, and his menu at the restaurant highlights these

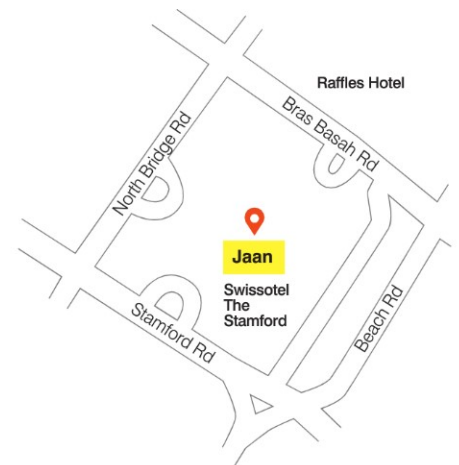
gourmet produce and their dedicated producers, while also showcasing his culinary creativity.

Respecting seasonality, Royer changes his menu according to the availability of ingredients, but consistently imbues the dishes with his own confident and innovative style.

Take his signature 55-degree rosemary smoked organic egg, for example. Elevating the perfect slow-cooked egg is the introduction of smoked rosemary tips, whose fragrance is trapped within a glass vessel

and released only when the dish is served at the table. This epitomises the way he incorporates sensory components throughout the dining experience.

Other popular dishes available this season include Hokkaido sea urchin with obsiblu prawn and kaluga queen caviar, crispy-skinned amadai, and hay-roasted pigeon.



**Sear**

#45-01/02 Singapore Land Tower, 50 Raffles Place  
**Reservations:**  
 hello@50rp.com.sg

**OPENING HOURS:**

Lunch: Mon-Fri, 12pm to 2.30pm;  
 Dinner: Mon-Sat, 6pm to 11pm

**STAR POWER:**

Sear is part of the 50 Raffles Place dining and nightclub venue, which also houses Empire, Angie's Oyster & Champagne Bar, and Teikoku.

**PRICE POINTS:**

From \$29 for a two-course lunch; starters from \$16, mains from \$38

If you like your meats and the aromatics a grill can impart, Sear is the ideal place to dine. The 5,000 sq ft modern American steakhouse is located above the Central Business District, and proffers an amazing view of Marina Bay. For the best vistas, ask for a table out on the terrace.

Committed to providing the ultimate steak, the culinary team at Sear imported two Pira charcoal ovens from Barcelona so that they can achieve the best sear on the outside and a

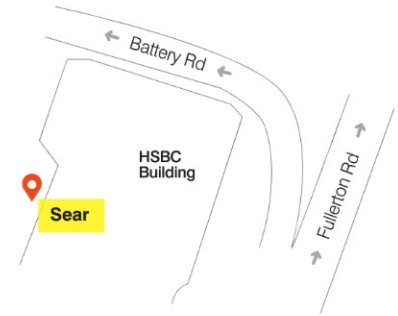


Wakanui Hereford Cattle rib-eye



Tasting dessert plate

gorgeous rosy hue within. The cooking method helps to retain all the intrinsic flavour and juices of the meat and inject charcoal-grilled aromatic nuances. Take your pick from the certified Kobe rib-eye, Canadian Western Countries Cross Angus tenderloin, Wakanui Hormone Free 21 days aged New Zealand Hereford Cattle rib-eye, Australian Jacks Creek Wagyu Tomahawk, or the



Sher Full Blood Wagyu sirloin. Don't forget faves like the Mac & Cheese and Russet wedges in duck fat. To tip you right over the culinary edge, order the chocolate mud cake and cinnamon doughnuts.

