



COMPACT CRUSADER

At the 2016 Auto Expo, Maruti Suzuki has taken the wraps off its new compact SUV – Vitara Brezza. We take a closer look at the car to tell you what to expect

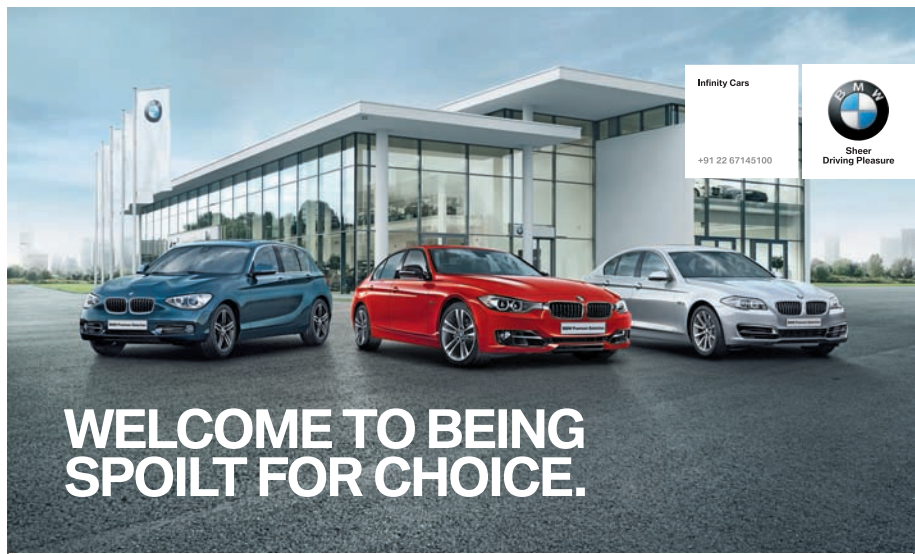
After a lot of speculation, numerous spy shots and some teaser images, Maruti Suzuki finally unveiled the Vitara Brezza yesterday. With this new offering, the Manesar-based car maker steps into the competitive compact SUV class of cars. The Vitara Brezza is possibly one of the most important cars for Maruti Suzuki this year. Although a bit late to join the sub-4 metre SUV party with Ford already reaping its sow and Mahindra recently joining the pack, Maruti is quite hopeful about the Vitara Brezza and rightly so.

The design of the car is one of the most important factors for buyers in this class. And in that context, Maruti Suzuki seems to have got it right. The long bonnet smoothly flows onto the bold chrome grille staying true to its new design philosophy. The pseudo scuff plates ensure

that the compact-SUV gets that much needed rugged look. Headlights are projector kind and are expected to provide great visibility. To ensure that the Vitara Brezza looks young, Maruti Suzuki has smartly given its exterior design a dual-tone approach. Depending on the exterior colour you choose, the car gets a contrasting coloured roof. This floating roof design along with the 10-spoke alloy wheels helps accentuate the rather simple looking profile. From the rear too, the Vitara Brezza looks as smart as its front. The large wraparound taillight, strip of chrome above the registration plate and the light crease above it, make the rear look attractive. On the inside, the steering wheel and the instrument cluster are a straight lift from other Maruti Suzuki cars like the Baleno. All of this will help Maruti Suzuki keep the costs in check. The dashboard gets a dual-tone treatment and is made from good quality plastic. The seats looked comfortable and well bolstered. Rear seats too seemed wide enough to seat three adults fairly comfortably. In terms of features, the Vitara Brezza will come heavily loaded. The top-end trim will come fitted with steering mounted controls, button start and keyless entry. The car gets the same touchscreen infotainment system that was introduced in the S-Cross. In fact, the Vitara Brezza will also come with the Apple Car Play feature. Needless to say a car in this class will come with the



now standard Bluetooth, AUX and USB connectivity. Maruti Suzuki will launch the Vitara Brezza with the DDiS 200 engine. This unit makes 90PS of power and 200Nm of torque from the Fiat sourced 1.3-litre diesel. This engine comes mated to a 5-speed manual transmission. Although Maruti Suzuki hasn't announced anything as yet, they might even bring in the Vitara Brezza with the 1.6-litre diesel from the S-Cross. Maruti Suzuki will launch the Vitara Brezza in the next few months. When launched, it will compete against the likes of the Ford EcoSport and the Mahindra TUV300. Considering Maruti's wide spread service network and reliability, expect the Vitara Brezza to bring in good number for the brand. **Ravi Ved**



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2016 CALIFORNIA SUPERBIKE SCHOOL TRAINS HUNDREDS OF RIDERS IN INDIA

It's difficult to think of a better way to spend a weekend for a motorcycle enthusiast than to hone his/her riding skills at a race track, that too under the meticulous eyes of world-class coaches from around the globe. This was exactly what ensued at the recently organised 2016 California Superbike School (CSS) in Sriperumbudur, as the sold-out event, considered to be one of the best motorcycle training grounds in the world, was choc-a-bloc with participants.

DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, COMMON PASSION
The sixth edition of the CSS witnessed participation from more than 100 men and women, belonging to varied age groups and riding skillsets. Coming from equally diverse backgrounds such as banking, fashion industry, entrepreneurs and tinsel town, what bonded these individuals was their sheer passion for motorcycles. The riders were split in two batches - the first conducted from February 5 to 7 with 55 people, while the other, from February 12 to 14, which saw 57 entries. There were no less than 10 renowned riding coaches who had flown in from various parts of the world including the

United Kingdom, Turkey and other parts of Europe.

HOLISTIC RIDING IMPROVEMENT TARGETED
Although this workshop was held at a race circuit - the Madras Motorsport Race Track at Sriperumbudur, near Chennai, the focus was not on speed but to rather improve the overall riding ability by using proven techniques. Everyday classroom training sessions were followed by practical implementation on the race track for a better understanding of the riding practices. The objective was also to make the riders safer and more aware on the road.

GETTING BETTER BY THE YEAR
With over three decades of experience in training everyday commuters, MotoGP and World Superbike (WSBK) racers, the California Superbike School has trained over 1.5 lakh riders in as many as 27 countries. With the growing popularity of recreation motorcycling and the launch of world-class motorcycles in India, schools like the CSS are much-needed outlets to train petrolheads for optimally using the power on their saddles. **Sarmad Kadiri**



CSS coach gives feedback to a participant after a track riding session.



Participants pose with the coaches after a gruelling training session.

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