

STYLISH COMFORT MEETS RUGGED PERFORMANCE



The 2017 GMC Sierra shows off equal parts style and ruggedness during a quick stop at Lake Chillisquaque with the Montour Preserve.

The 2017 GMC Sierra pickup truck can enhance even the simplest of tasks.

Some springtime mulching needed done in the back yard and I needed a new pitchfork to help move the mulch.

Sure, our family minivan could handle the trip to Tractor Supply for a pitchfork — but the Sierra turned a simple errand into a notable experience.

My review vehicle — the 2017 Sierra 1500 4WD Double Cab SLT — provided a memorable ride. Its 5.3-liter, V8 engine provided plenty of pep over a variety of Valley backroads.

The Z71 suspension package kept the ride smooth, even on bumpier surfaces and when combined with the power under the hood, added to the feel that this Sierra could handle most any terrain.

My mother — a longtime heavy duty truck owner and Ford enthusiast — was quick to point out the impressive interior. The seats were among the most comfortable she ever experienced in a truck and the overall inside design was sleek and sophisticated throughout. The instrument panel, central touchscreen and array of buttons and knobs are attractive, well-labeled and easy to use.

2017 GMC Sierra Offers Cool Features

Three USB, two 12-volt and one 120-volt outlets are available.

On the exterior, chrome accents and matching bumper paired well with a masculine grill design to visually give the vehicle equal parts beauty and brawn.

"Chevrolets (and GMCs) are known for their looks — Fords for being tough," my mother said while riding around some backroads near the Warrior Run High School.

Except, the Sierra isn't lacking in the toughness department. It comes in four trim levels — work truck, SLE, SLT and Denali — each with an increasing level of strength and performance.

Towing capacity is proportionally increased as you work your way up the trims and engine configurations and the 3.42 rear axle in the review truck gives a good base for recreational towers while helping fuel efficiency.

There are many cool features that help take the Sierra experience to even greater levels. A wireless cellphone charging dock in the center console was a neat touch. You can also link your cell phone with the touchscreen, projecting information and the ability to text to the central unit. Steps have been built into

the rear bumper for easier climbing and there is lighting built into the bed of the truck to help those using a tonneau cover.

Price and fuel efficiency varies per model, trim and optional upgrades. The vehicle I reviewed registered 18 miles per gallon in combined city and highway driving. The standard price for the 2017 Sierra 1500 4WD SLT is \$45,480, but a variety of options in the truck I used — including the double cab premium package, Bose audio system, 20-inch polished aluminum wheels, special paint scheme, off-road suspension package a few other items brought the sticker price to \$49,650.

Beyond the towing, interior design, cool options and other truck-centric aspects of the Sierra, though, the experience continues to stand out the most.

At Tractor Supply, I parked in a row of full-sized trucks dominated by Dodges and Fords. As I climbed out of the cab, an older gentleman wearing a dusty John Deere ball cap caught my attention.

He paused to give me a wink before saying, "Nice truck!"

Nice truck, indeed.

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