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Blazing a Trail to Laguna Beach in the New Chevrolet Blazer

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The all-new for 2019 Chevrolet Blazer cuts a dashing figure on the road and on the curb. If the name sounds familiar it is. Chevrolet has been using the Blazer moniker since the 1960s. In its most iconic form it was a truck-like vehicle with a removable top. Today's Blazer is a crossover that seats five with a sporty vibe from its Camaro-esque styling. My test model was a brilliant red with blacked out grill and dual exhaust outlets with chrome tips. It was hot.



I was heading to a fun destination; a boutique hotel in Laguna Beach called the Hotel Joaquin. The drive down was a bit slow as the 5 freeway was its usual mess, but I was comfortable in my leather seats and listening to my favorite station through the Bose premium audio system. Changing lanes was a snap using the Side Blind Zone Alert. Because my model was equipped with the optional six-

cylinder engine I had plenty of zoom.

Upon my arrival I was whisked into the hotel and given time to get the lay of the land. My room was on the second floor with a wonderful view of the ocean only blocks away. A king-sized bed dominated the room. There are no televisions in the rooms but the internet is pretty fast so if you need a dose of television you can use your computer. A unique detail of the room was the turntable and vinyl records. The hotel was a juxtaposition of the old and the new.

That evening with my Nav appropriately programed, I followed the friendly voice to a sunset dinner cruise in the Newport Harbor on Hornblower cruise lines. The clouds had cleared out and it was a beautiful evening to sip Champagne while watching the sun slip into the ocean. On the trip back to the hotel I got a chance to check out the backseats (I did drink Champagne after all), it was plenty comfy with lots of head and legroom.

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The next day dawned bright and sunny with a kiss of spring in the air. What an adventurous drive I had to Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park for a hike to the wildflower bloom. Once we left the main road I was able to engage the all wheel drive with the flick of a switch. I traversed the dirt track, through holes filled with water and mud. Not a problem did I have climbing ever-higher to the beginning of the trail. I didn't make the climb up the trail, but I did have fun returning to the hotel hitting every rut I missed on the way up.



The Blazer comes in four trim configurations; L, LT, RS, and Premier. I was driving the RS with 20-inch wheels, a blacked-out front grille, driver-seat memory settings, dual exhaust outlets with chrome tips, a heated steering wheel, a navigation system, an upgraded driver information display, a 120-volt power outlet, and an adjustable cargo management system.



My Blazer was equipped with the 3.6-liter, V6 engine that gave me more than 300 horses under the hood. A 9-speed automatic transmission meshed everything together. I had no trouble driving uphill, merging into freeway traffic or putting on that burst of speed sometimes needed to change lanes.

What a wonderful time I had and the Blazer made it all much more fun. From easy to use controls, to the zippy engine this incarnation of the Chevrolet Blazer is comfortable enough for the daily grind and adventurous enough for weekend explorations.

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