

A study in relativity

By Joe Sage

On paper, this 6-cylinder Jaguar F-TYPE Coupe has just about everything—a supercharged six with 340 horses and just-over-five acceleration time, surely no slouch, especially as housed in the indisputably sexy F-TYPE sheetmetal.

Start at \$65,000. Add options in sidebar (but still no rear camera) and you hit \$77,375.

We had driven the \$99,000 Jaguar F-TYPE R V8-powered coupe last fall, a standout among 25 of the hottest of the hot during a two-day event. The R is the type you don't want to give up till they peel your reluctant fingers from the wheel. It's one of the most fulfilling and memorable cars we've driven. This six, then, coming later, not so much.

We had surely been spoiled by the V8. The six had a lot to live up to and perhaps was trying too hard. The V8 exhaust note of an R is bliss; on this six, it's a ferocious high-pitched affair. (For \$1500, you have your choice of two noises; we'd save the

money. In fact, as noted at right, we'd likely skip several high-priced options.)

We started off on the wrong foot with this car. The first time we touched it, the door handles retracted, the mirrors retracted, the security system chirped and we were locked out for hours. Good for the Batmobile, bad for us. Once in, working through various dynamic drive modes was cumbersome, and none gave us the drive and ride sweet spot we were seeking. The auto stop/start was rougher and more disruptive than average.

We're confident a supercharged V6 F-TYPE owner will enjoy the car. Maybe we need to try it again. Maybe the 380-hp "S." Maybe for a thousand-mile run across Nevada and back, that kind of thing. But for now, we were unenthused. ■

FOR 2016, F-TYPE adds an AWD option for any, and a 6-speed manual option for the rear-drive V6.

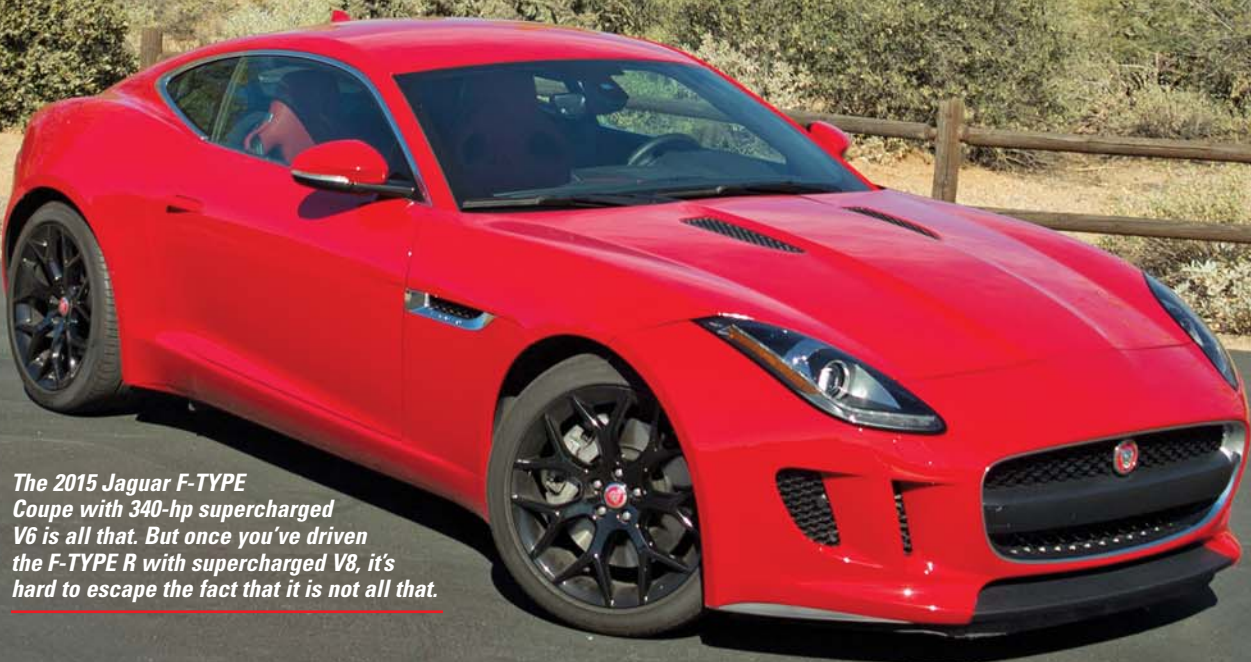
SPECIFICATIONS (RWD)

ENGINE.....	3.0L supercharged V6
TRANSMISSION.....	ZF 8-speed Quickshift auto
DRIVETRAIN.....	RWD w dynamic, snow modes
POWER/TORQUE.....	340 hp / 332 lb-ft
ZERO TO 60.....	5.1 sec
WEIGHT.....	3477 lb
FUEL CAPACITY.....	19 gal
MPG.....	20/28/23 (city/hwy/comb)
INCLUDED:	Sport suspension, sport exhaust, auto stop/start, xenon headlamps plus LEDs, emergency brake assist, stability control, anti-theft immobilizer, remote hatch release, 380W Meridian audio, keyless entry/start, 6-way sport seats, touchscreen nav, Bluetooth, audio connections.

BASE PRICE.....	\$65,000
CLIMATE PACK: Heated seats/wheel.....	600
PERFORMANCE SEAT.....	1500
WHEELS: 19" black centrifuge alloy.....	2500
HD/SIRIUS RADIO.....	450
SWITCHABLE ACTIVE EXHAUST.....	1500
PREMIUM PACK 1: 14-way power seats w memory, keyless entry, dual zone climate, garage door opener.....	2200
EXTENDED LEATHER PACK.....	2700
DESTINATION CHARGE.....	925

TOTAL.....\$77,375

- WE MIGHT SKIP: Performance seat, black wheels, switchable exhaust, extended leather.....(8200)
- TOTAL w/ fewer options.....\$69,175



The 2015 Jaguar F-TYPE Coupe with 340-hp supercharged V6 is all that. But once you've driven the F-TYPE R with supercharged V8, it's hard to escape the fact that it is not all that.