

# MAGIC HEART

**VARIABLE COMPRESSION ENGINE FEATURED**

By Joe Sage

The 2019 Infiniti QX50 marks generation two of the nameplate, itself part of Infiniti's overall rebranding a few years back of all SUVs and crossovers as QX-something (picking up from the big former QX56, now QX80), with all cars becoming Q-something.

The QX50 started as a renamed Infiniti EX, the compact sibling of the prior FX (which became the QX70 but is now discontinued).

The whole lineup—QX30, QX50, QX60 and QX80—has for now stabilized as an updated and unified yet clearly differentiated family.

This gen-two QX50 is all new 2019 vehicle, though you may recognize it, as it was shown in 2017 and promptly went on sale in 2018 as a 2019 model. Though on stage awhile, its new technologies and form are still very fresh.

The vehicle follows suit to auto show concepts (QX50 Concept and QX Sport Inspiration) that introduced the styling language.

Besides providing structure and stance that move away from the FX and EX's egg shapes, the new QX50's styling creates more interior space for both passengers and cargo.

As with parent-sibling Nissan, the new Infiniti offers a range of technology including ProPILOT Assist—an impressive feature we've tested extensively when it was first introduced at the Texas Truck Rodeo a couple of

years ago—which includes high degrees of steering assist and smart cruise control with full speed range and hold features (included on our tester as part of a \$2000 package).

At the new model's heart is one of the brand's most intriguing new technologies—its all-new 2.0-liter VC-Turbo, the world's first production variable-compression engine, which continually adjusts piston stroke for optimum balance between high-compression fuel efficiency and low-compression power and torque. Seek out a cross-section video of this—it's very clever. The technology has received awards worldwide and is on the prestigious Ward's 10 Best Engines list for 2019.

Three trim levels start at \$36,550. Our Essential is the top trim, though in this case a front-driver. Any level is available with all-wheel drive for \$1850 more (and we would spring for that, as we did experience some front-drive torquiness). As you can see at right, our sample quickly ran from 18 percent more than a base model to 50 percent more, and the priciest package contains many items you would not likely want to be without.

In our busy week with the QX50, we noted repeat issues with the device interface, with overzealous alerts overpowering normal use of the backup camera, and with the electronic shift interface sometimes having a mind of its own, all of which we'll save to discuss with the engineers at some point. Those aside, our drive time itself was quite enjoyable. ■

## SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE.....	2.0-liter 4-cylinder VC-Turbo
DRIVETRAIN.....	FWD (AWD available)
HP/TORQUE .....	268 hp / 280 lb-ft
COMPRESSION RATIO .....	variable from 8.0:1 to 14.0:1
TRANSMISSION .....	CVT w manual mode, downshift rev match
SUSPENSION .....	F: MacPherson strut w alum alloy upper/lower alum/steel subframe, twin tube shocks, 27mm stblzr bar; R: indep multi-link w monotube shocks, 22.5mm stblzr bar
STEERING .....	engine-speed-sensitive var assist
BRAKES.....	F: 13.0x1.3 vented; R: 12.1x0.6 vented
WHEELS / TIRES .....	20" dark alum alloy / P255/45R20
LENGTH / WHEELBASE .....	184.7 / 110.2 in
TURNING CIRCLE.....	36.4 ft
GROUND CLEARANCE .....	8.6 in
APPROACH / BREAKOVER / DEPART .....	17.2 / 23.9 / 27.7°
SEATING .....	five
CARGO CAPACITY .....	31.4 / 65.1 cu.ft
WEIGHT / DISTRIBUTION (F/R) .....	3827 lb (60/40%)
FUEL / CAPACITY.....	premium / 16.0 gal
MPG .....	24/31/27 (city/hwy/comb)

**BASE PRICE .....** **\$43,350**

**SENSORY PKG:** 20" wheels, semi-aniline leather seats, heated-cooled front seats, advanced climate control, 2-way passenger power lumbar, motion activated tailgate, rear side window sunshades, cube design LED headlights, adaptive front lights, upgraded interior ambient light, maple wood interior trim, ultrasuede headliner, driver seat-mirror-wheel memory, heated wheel, Bose 16-spkr audio, upgraded trim, reverse-fold mirrors.....7500

**PROASSIST PKG:** Backup collision intervention, distance control ast, smart cruise, rear cross traffic alert.....550

**PROACTIVE PKG:** ProPILOT Assist w steering assist and smart cruise w full speed range and hold, blind spot intervention, lane departure warning & prevention, high beam assist, heads-up display, direct adaptive steering.....2000

**ILLUMINATED KICK PLATES.....** 465

**MAJESTIC WHITE PREMIUM PAINT.....** 500

**WELCOME LIGHTING.....** 425

**DESTINATION CHARGE.....** 995

**TOTAL .....** **\$55,785**

