Volvo C70

The Swedish manufacturer of safe, boxy station wagons has an altered ego. The C70 marks a new departure for Volvo—a coupe with elegant style, great performance and top-notch appeal.

VITAL STATISTICS

- **Top speed:** 155 mph
- **0-60 mph:** 6.3 sec.
- **Engine type:** In-line five
- **Displacement:** 2,319 cc
- **Max power:** 236 bhp at 5,100 rpm
- **Max torque:** 243 lb-ft at 2,700 rpm
- **Weight:** 3,365 lbs.
- **Gas mileage:** 18 mpg
- **Price:** $38,995

"...few cars can match."

"Take a moment to relax behind the wheel. The C70's driving environment could hardly be more suitable, swathed in leather and wood and with easy-to-read instruments. Its front-drive manners are entirely predictable but, then again, the C70 is more tourer than sports car. It is also more comfortable and spacious than most of its rivals. With the optional 18-inch wheels the car has tremendous handling characteristics, but its ride quality suffers."

Spacious, beautifully finished and well put together, the C70 is a class act.
With the C70, Volvo has combined design elegance with solid engineering, high safety standards and superb performance. These factors will ensure its status as a modern classic.

**Two transmission options**

Drive is sent to the front wheels with either a five-speed manual or a four-speed automatic transmission. Each has three driving modes—Sports, Economy and Winter.

**Delta Link suspension**

Volvo's Delta Link rear suspension allows the rear wheels to turn fractionally when entering a corner, thus maintaining optimum road contact and precise, positive steering.

**Safety foremost**

The shell is specifically reinforced for offset impacts and roll-overs, while a Side Impact Protection System (SIPS) is state of the art.

**Effective aerodynamics**

The C70 emerges as one of the most slippery production car shapes of all time. Its drag coefficient figure of just 0.29 is outstanding.
Volvo C70 T5

**ENGINE**
Type: In-line five-cylinder
Construction: Aluminum cylinder block and head
Valve gear: Four valves per cylinder operated by twin overhead camshafts
Bore and stroke: 3.19 in. x 3.54 in.
Displacement: 2,319 cc
Compression ratio: 8.5:1
Induction system: Motronic fuel injection
Maximum power: 236 bhp at 5,100 rpm
Maximum torque: 243 lb-ft at 2,700 rpm

**TRANSMISSION**
Five-speed manual

**BODY/CHASSIS**
Steel monocoque two-door coupe

**SPECIAL FEATURES**
The C70 is available with these elegant 18-inch Triton spoked alloy wheels.

**RUNNING GEAR**
Steering: Rack-and-pinion
Front suspension: Struts with lower link, coil springs, shock absorbers and anti-roll bar
Rear suspension: Delta Link with longitudinal arms, coil springs, shock absorbers and anti-roll bar
Brakes: Vented discs (front), solid discs (rear)
Wheels: Alloy, 17-in. dia.
Tires: 225/45 ZR17

**DIMENSIONS**
Length: 185.7 in.  Width: 71.5 in.
Height: 55.7 in.  Wheelbase: 104.9 in.
Track: 59.8 in. (front and rear)
Weight: 3,365 lbs.

Electronic control systems
Anti-lock brakes and electronic brake distribution (EBD) are standard. EBD automatically adjusts braking between the front and rear wheels.
**Milestones**

**1996** At the Paris Motor Show, Volvo displays its new C70 coupe. This car is quite a radical departure for the conservative Volvo, with its sleek coupe styling backed by the same five-cylinder powertrain as used on the fast 850 T5 sedan and wagon.

The C70 shares its engine, transmission and basic inner structure with the V70 (850).

**1997** Production of the C70 coupe gets underway in Gothenburg, Sweden, while a convertible version is revealed at the Detroit Auto Show. Actor Val Kilmer drives an early C70 coupe in the feature movie *The Saint*.

The entry-level model in the current Volvo range is the S40.

**1998** The long-awaited convertible version of the C70 joins the coupe on the Gothenburg production line.

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**UNDER THE SKIN**

**Race-bred**

The C70's chassis was fine-tuned by Formula 1 racing team TWR under the guidance of Volvo, although most of the hardware is derived from the V70 sedan. As usual for the Swedish company, the transverse front-mounted engine delivers its drive to the front wheels (via TRACS electronic traction control).

Bosch Motronic fuel injection

Distributorless ignition

Five cylinders

Four valves per cylinder

**THE POWER PACK**

**Turbocharged five-pack**

C70s are all fitted with aluminum five-cylinder in-line engines that are claimed to give the smoothness, response and flexibility of a six. All engines have Motronic fuel injection, and the T5 model is powered by a high-pressure turbocharged 2.3-liter unit which develops 236 bhp. Maximum torque of 243 lb-ft is available between 2,700 and 5,100 rpm. A less powerful 2.5-liter light-pressure turbo engine, producing 193 bhp, is also on offer, and in some markets a 2.0-liter engine is available.

**Turbo C70**

You won't quickly forget the huge pulling power and tremendous sprinting ability of the turbocharged engine in the T5—the most powerful C70. In addition, there is also a stunning C70 convertible model with an elegant folding roof.

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**NOSE TO NOSE**

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<tr>
<th><strong>Mercedes-Benz CLK 320</strong></th>
<th><strong>Peugeot 406 Coupe</strong></th>
<th><strong>Volvo C70 T5</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOP SPEED</strong></td>
<td><strong>0-60 mph</strong></td>
<td><strong>POWER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>149 mph</td>
<td>7.2 sec.</td>
<td>215 bhp</td>
</tr>
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**RIVAL CARS**

**MERCEDES-BENZ CLK 320**

**PEUGEOT 406 COUPE**

**VOLVO C70 T5**

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**Value Guide**

**ORIGINAL PRICE**

1998 $38,995

**PRODUCTION TOTAL**

Still in production

The C70 marks Volvo's welcome return to the coupe market.