

Vauxhall Extends Apple Carplay And Onstar Tech To Insignia

Thursday 5 November, 2015

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Vauxhall's Insignia flagship is now available with IntelliLink Navi 900, which includes Apple CarPlay and the personal connectivity and service assistant, OnStar.

Apple CarPlay enables quick and straightforward integration of Apple smartphones (iPhone 5 and above). Drivers can access Apple CarPlay maps and news services as soon as connectivity has been established. Additional apps can be controlled via Siri eyes free voice control or from the Insignia's eight-inch touchscreen.

Each system builds off of the features smartphone users rely on most. Apple CarPlay takes the iPhone features you would want to access while driving and puts them on the vehicle's display in a smart, simple manner. This allows drivers to make calls, send and receive messages and listen to music right from the touchscreen or by voice via Siri. Apple CarPlay-supported apps include Phone, Messages, Maps, Music and compatible third party apps. A full list of those apps can be found at apple.com/ios/carplay.

The latest generation Navi 900 IntelliLink also offers the possibility of individually configuring the homepage and specifying favourites. Some 60 memory spaces are available for favourite radio stations, contacts, addresses, telephone numbers, artists or playlists. In order to keep distraction to a minimum, the most important IntelliLink information is displayed in the instrument panel between the speedometer and rev counter. The driver and passenger can watch videos on the eight-inch monitor in the centre console via a USB connection – but for safety reasons this is obviously only possible when the car is stationary.

Navi 900 IntelliLink is standard on Nav models (Design, SRi, SRi VX-Line and Elite) and on Tech Line. It is available as a £1,000 option on Energy, Limited Edition and SE. However, the Apple CarPlay feature is also available throughout the range with the optional Touch R700 IntelliLink system, at a cost of £350. The R700's features include USB and aux-in socket, audio streaming and 8-inch colour touch-screen display and 60 configurable favourites, including phone contacts.

Insignia becomes Wi-Fi Hotspot with OnStar

OnStar is available on Limited Edition, Elite and VXR models. The integrated 4G/LTE architecture turns Vauxhall's flagship into a powerful mobile Wi-Fi Hotspot. A special external antenna maximises connectivity and delivers a stable internet connection for up to seven devices.

The extensive services are the heart and soul of the personal connectivity and service assistant. They range from around the clock Automatic Crash Response to Stolen Vehicle and Roadside Assistance, right up to Vehicle Diagnostics. All of these services are available at the push of a button – thanks to the system's integrated SIM card, a smartphone is not required. Elsewhere a smartphone is needed for the MyVauxhall smartphone app. It enables OnStar subscribers to request help when away from the vehicle, to lock or unlock the car doors or to access important vehicle data.

OnStar services and Wi-Fi are free for the first year. A second year of OnStar services, including roadside assistance, but excluding Wi-Fi is available for just £79.

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