

SA Car of the Year finalists

 By [Henrie Geyser](#) 30 Oct 2012

The South African Guild of Motoring Journalists has announced the 12 finalists in the running for this year's coveted title of SA Car of the Year.



The 12 finalists vary from Hyundai i30 to Range Rover Evoque and were elected by a 29-member jury of motoring journalists.

The twelve finalists for the 2013 WesBank / SAGMJ Car of the Year competition, South Africa's premier motoring event, are:

- 2012 BMW 3 Series 320i Automatic
- 2012 Ford Ranger 3.2 XLT 4X4 Double Cab Diesel AT
- 2012 Hyundai i30 1.8 Executive
- 2012 Kia Rio 1.4 TEC Hatch MT
- 2012 Lexus GS 350 EX
- 2012 Mercedes-Benz B 180 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY
- 2012 Nissan Juke 1.6 DIG-T Tekna (Leather)
- 2012 Opel Meriva 1.4T Cosmo
- 2012 Porsche Boxster
- 2012 Range Rover Evoque Si4 Dynamic 5-door
- 2012 Toyota 86 High Spec 6MT
- 2012 Toyota Yaris 1.5 HSD Xs

The winner will be selected after a two-day evaluation session to be held in February at the Gerotek facility near Pretoria, where the Jury members will assess the cars independently.

In keeping with the competition's broadened scope, the testing at Gerotek will allow the vehicles to be evaluated under the conditions individual vehicles would be expected to perform under, with routes designed to test the vehicles in a similar way the average consumer would use them. The test days offer the Jury the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with the vehicles and specific aspects such as aesthetics, build quality, ergonomics, fuel consumption, environmental friendliness, safety features and value for money.

South Africa's Car of the Year competition is unique in the world in that it is determined by three rounds of voting. The first round of voting is open to all full members of the SAGMJ and yields the semi-finalists, which after a second round of voting, open to only the jury, determines the finalists. Following the two-day test sessions at Gerotek, a final allocation of points by the jury is tallied and audited before an overall winner is announced at a gala banquet in March 2013.

ABOUT HENRIE GEYSER

Henrie Geysler joined the online publishing industry through iafrica.com, where he worked for five years as news editor and editor. He now freelances for a variety of print and online publications, on the subjects of cars, food, and travel, among others; and is a member of the South African Guild of Motoring Journalists. henrieg@iafrica.com
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