Kelley Blue Book Names Most Awarded Cars, Automotive Brands of 2021

IRVINE, Calif., Dec. 20, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- With more than 300 different new models available in the marketplace each year, it can be overwhelming for car shoppers to know where to begin as they search for their next vehicle. To help shoppers narrow their focus and provide an at-a-glance look at the top winners this year according to the experts, Kelley Blue Book recently named its 10 Most Awarded Cars of 2021 and 10 Most Awarded Brands of 2021.



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To compile these lists, Kelley Blue Book's experts culled through all of the winners from the company's 2021 awards programs, tallying the cars and brands that were awarded most often. Kelley Blue Book's major annual awards programs include the Best Buy Awards, Best Resale Value Awards, 5-Year Cost to Own Awards and Brand Image Awards. They also factored in the vehicles and brands featured most on the various accolade and 10 Best lists created by Kelley Blue Book's editorial staff this year – including the Best Family Cars, Best Luxury Cars Under $35,000, Best Hybrid Cars Under $40,000, and many more.

"There are many noteworthy automotive brands and vehicles in the marketplace, but ultimately Toyota and its RAV4 won the most Kelley Blue Book awards and accolades in 2021," said Jason Allan, director of editorial for Kelley Blue Book. "Our team works year-round testing and reviewing vehicles, along with examining all kinds of relevant data, to compile our recommendations for the best cars in a wide range of categories – all with the ultimate goal to help car shoppers as they navigate their journey. The standout vehicles are strong enough that they often appear on multiple lists, and the top brands boast lineups full of award winners."

Kelley Blue Book's 10 Most Awarded Cars of 2021

Rank	Year	Make	Model	Sample Editorial Comments
1	2021	Toyota	RAV4	The 2021 Toyota RAV4 is our most awarded car of the year. This 5-passenger compact SUV is spacious and comfortable with a wide range of trims and engine options. The RAV4 Prime plug-in hybrid earned a 2021 Best Buy Award and a spot on the 14 Best New and Redesigned SUVs list. The RAV4 also was a 2021 Best Buy Award winner and one of the 12 Best Family Cars of 2021.
2	2021	Hyundai	Elantra	The roomy 2021 Hyundai Elantra sedan is available with gas and hybrid powertrains. It was a 2021 Best Buy Award and 5-Year Cost to Own Award winner, along with being named one of the 10 Best Sedans Under $30,000, 10 Coolest Cars Under $30,000, 10 Best Hybrid Cars Under $30,000, and 10 Best Road Trip Cars of 2021.
3	2021	Toyota	Sienna	The 2021 Toyota Sienna minivan is the ultimate family hauler, with room for everyone and their stuff, the convenience of sliding doors, available all-wheel drive, and a standard hybrid engine rated to return up to 36 mpg. It was a 2021 Best Buy Award and Best Resale Value Award winner, along with being named one of the 12 Best Family Cars, 10 Best Road Trip Cars, and 8 Best Hybrid Cars Under $40,000 for 2021.
4	2021	Jeep	Wrangler	A longtime top pick for off-road enthusiasts, the 2021 Jeep Wrangler can go where other vehicles don't stand a chance. Available as a 2-door or 4-door, owners can even remove the doors and roof to fully enjoy the outdoors. It was a 2021 Best Resale Value Award and 5-Year Cost to Own Award winner, along with being named one of the 10 Most Fun SUVs and 10 Coolest Cars Under $30,000 for 2021.

5	2021	Kia	Telluride	The 2021 Kia Telluride is a 3-row SUV with all of the comfort and features a busy family wants, along with a smooth, quiet ride, lots of room for cargo, and a beautiful, upscale interior. It was a 2021 Best Buy Award and Best Resale Value Award winner, along with being named one of the 12 Best Family Cars and 10 Best Road Trip Cars of 2021.
6	2021	Toyota	Corolla	The 2021 Toyota Corolla is available in a wide range of configurations with multiple engine options, all with quality materials and affordable pricing. The hatchback was named one of the 10 Coolest Cars Under $20,000 and a 10 Best Family Cars Under $25,000 winner for 2021. The sedan was named one of the 10 Best Sedans Under $30,000, while the hybrid earned a spot on the 10 Best Hybrid Cars Under $30,000 list for 2021.
7	2021	Kia	Seltos	The 2021 Kia Seltos subcompact SUV has seating for five people and good room for cargo, along with eye-catching styling that packs in a lot of features for the price, making it a great value. It won two 2021 Best Buy Awards including Best New Model. It also was named one of the 10 Best Family Cars Under $25,000 and 14 Best New and Redesigned SUVs for 2021.
8	2021	Toyota	Tacoma	The 2021 Toyota Tacoma midsize pickup can carry a payload and tow larger items while having more city-friendly dimensions. It was a 2021 Best Buy Award and Best Resale Value Award winner, along with being named one of the 10 Coolest Cars Under $30,000 for 2021.
9	2021	Hyundai	Santa Fe	The 2021 Hyundai Santa Fe midsize SUV has room for the family and all their stuff in a quiet and well-appointed interior, offered with a fuel-efficient gas engine or as a hybrid. It was a 2021 Best Buy Award winner, along with being named one of the 12 Best Family Cars, 14 Best New and Redesigned SUVs, and 8 Best Hybrid Cars Under $40,000 for 2021.
10	2021	Subaru	Outback	Standard all-wheel drive and a durable interior designed to withstand outdoor adventures make the 2021 Subaru Outback a great choice for active lifestyles. It's also a terrific value, winning a 2021 Best Resale Value Award and a 5-Year Cost to Own Award, along with being named one of the 10 Best Road Trip Cars of 2021.

Kelley Blue Book's 10 Most Awarded Brands of 2021

Rank	Year	Make	Number of 2021 Awards and Accolades
1	2021	Toyota	41
2	2021	Hyundai	22
3	2021	Ford	18
4	2021	Kia	17
5	2021	Honda	15
6	2021	Subaru	15
7	2021	Jeep	11
8	2021	Lexus	10
9	2021	Mazda	10
10	2021	Nissan	9

To see KBB.com's complete coverage of the 10 Most Awarded Cars of 2021, visit https://www.kbb.com/best-cars/most-awarded-cars-2021/. For full coverage of the 10 Most Awards Brands of 2021, visit https://www.kbb.com/best-cars/most-awarded-brands-2021/.

To discuss this topic, or any other automotive-related information, with a Kelley Blue Book analyst on-camera via the company's on-site studio, please contact a member of the Public Relations team to schedule an interview.

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