

The 2021 Lexus ES250 and Mercedes C300 are luxury sedans, ideal for everyday activities with a touch of luxe. Despite being in the same class, each car has its own idiosyncratic features and design that make for small but significant differences. We have done the work so you don't have to by comparing them here, making it easier for you to choose the right one to best suit your needs.

Exterior (Overall Design)

The Mercedes design is stylish and understated. It has a recognizable sleekness in its lines that has aged well. The new Night Edition blacks out the parts that would usually be chrome, which is a nice touch, albeit an expensive addition. The Lexus has a similar package available, called the Black Line Special Edition, to add a black exterior trim and a black lip spoiler. Not only that though, but it also comes with a white interior, and matching luggage set from Zero Halliburton, providing extra value for your money. The ES250 has a coupe-like silhouette, which is sleek, despite its width and length. The larger dimensions of the Lexus are what gives it that extra comfort, for drivers and passengers alike, and a visible grandeur.

Interior Features

Both vehicles can carry five people. The ES250 provides more in terms of cargo carrying capabilities, making it more practical and versatile. The cabin is notably peaceful, even on the highway. Combined with the plushness and spaciousness of the interior, it makes for a calm, relaxing ride. The Mercedes cabin is as elegant as you would expect. Both vehicles use high-quality materials but the asymmetry in the design of the ES250 gives it a far more modern, up-to-date feel than the C300. The multimedia display appears fluidly integrated within the console design in the ES250. In the C300, the display balances above three circular air vents that are classic Mercedes styling. However, it does look more like an afterthought than an essential part of a modern car.

Engines

The C300 comes with a turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine with a 9-speed transmission, that provides 255 hp. All-wheel drive is available but only as an optional extra. The ES250 comes standard with all-wheel drive (AWD) and a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine. For increased fuel economy, the AWD can also decouple. The highly rigid chassis and low center of gravity empower you in all weather conditions as it delivers control and greater responsiveness. These features ensure a forgiving ride with composed handling.

Safety Features

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) named both vehicles a Top Safety Pick + so you can feel secure that either choice will keep you and your passengers safe. The C300 has automated emergency braking as standard. There are also options of lane-departure alerts, lane-keeping assistance, and adaptive cruise control. The latter feature is also an option on the ES250. However, automated emergency braking, lane-departure alerts, and lane-keeping assist are all available as standard. This means that, right from the outset, you are spending less to stay safer.