

## Driving Ambition

Many here remain crazy about their cars, which are some of the most expensive in the world

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A quarter of a million dollars can get you a three-room flat in Yishun.

It may not be enough to get you a Toyota Camry.

Unlike the flat, the car will depreciate in value and is likely to be almost worthless in 10 years' time. But like the flat, it does give you some space of your own.

A Toyota Camry 2.5 now costs a whopping \$284,000 with certificate of entitlement (COE), a year of road tax and insurance.

The COE premium for a Category A car was \$76,889 as of Oct 23. For a Category B car, it was \$87,910.

In Malaysia, the same car is a quarter of that price, about RM180,900 (S\$71,000) and in Australia, it is even less, only about A\$34,300 (S\$40,200).

Cars here are about the most expensive they are anywhere. So, what do these precious machines mean to us?

For one cabby, it's like his home. For the owner of a new sports car, it is something to be pampered. For one family, it is all about memories. For a young employee, it is still a dream.

The New Paper gets them to share the stories behind their cars.

For those who are not into showing off, the car is just four wheels to bring one from point to point. But there are some who see it as an accessory for showing-off purposes among one's social circles.

— Sociologist **Tan Ern Ser's** take on what a car could mean to different people