

1985 TVR 280i

2dr Convertible • 6-cyl. 2792cc/160hp Bosch K-Jetroic FI

#1 Concours condition

\$17,400

↗ +107.1%

#2 Excellent condition

\$14,100

↗ +101.4%

#3 Good condition

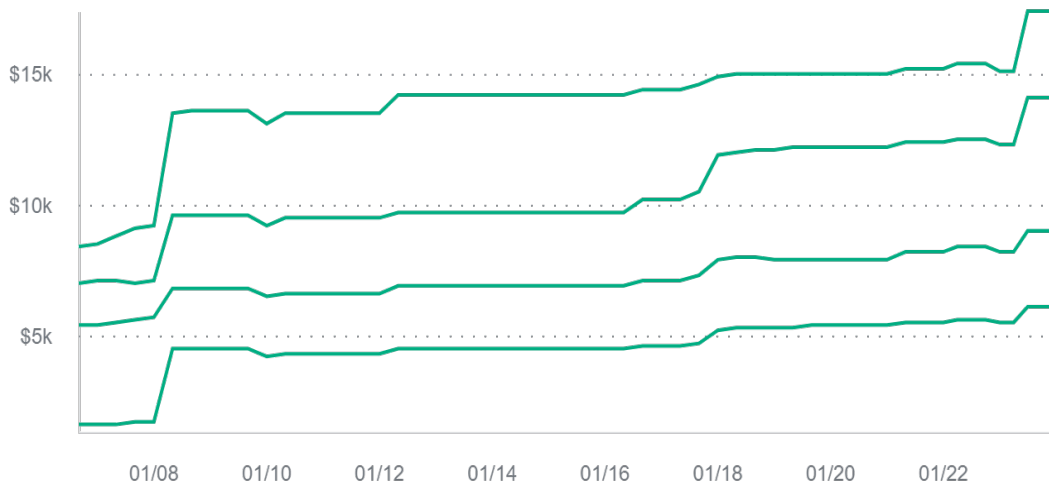
\$9,000*

↗ +66.7%

#4 Fair condition

\$6,100

↗ +281.3%



Value adjustments

Note:

Also known as the Tasmin.

Model description

TVR replaced their long-running M-series with the wedge shaped Tasmin in 1980, available in both two-seat coupe and convertible form, with the convertible allowing for top-up, top-down, and Targa-style configurations courtesy of a smartly designed center roof panel. Oliver Winterbottom of Lotus fame designed the body, which sat on a steel tube frame. TVR relied heavily on Ford components for wheels, brakes, front suspension, the four-speed transmission, and of course the engine, which was a Ford Cologne V-6 in a 160-hp state of tune.

By the time the Tasmin reached the U.S. in 1983 it was called the TVR 280i, and the German Ford V-6 had been smogged down to 145 hp. The car did boast leather interior and burled walnut trim, but the 280i's 0-60 time was a tad too close to 10 seconds for its \$25,000 price tag, and reportedly inconsistent build quality held sales to only 1,200 or so, with most being convertibles.

Even with the stated problems noted, there is still plenty to like about the TVR 280i. It is a comfortable tourer with predictable and engaging handling traits. Not surprisingly for a low-volume British car, electrical problems can be an issue and one should also check for rust in the tube frame. With these areas considered, the TVR 280i offers hand-built exclusivity married to Ford mechanical reliability for used Mazda Miata money.

*Please note: All prices shown here are based on various data sources, as detailed in [About Our Prices](#). For all Hagerty clients: The values shown do not imply coverage in this amount. In the event of a claim, the Guaranteed Value(s)® on your policy declarations page is the amount your vehicle(s) is covered for, even if the value displayed here is different. If you would like to discuss your policy, please call us at 877-922-3391.

Body styles

2dr Convertible 2dr Coupe

Engine types

6-cyl. 2792cc/160hp Bosch K-Jetroic FI 6-cyl. 2792cc/145hp Bosch FI

1980-1988 TVR 280i stats

Highest sale	Lowest sale	Most recent sale	Sales
\$15,015	\$2,310	\$15,015	24

Vehicle's condition classification

#1. Concours

#1 vehicles are the best in the world. Imagine the best vehicle, in the right colors, driving onto the lawn at the finest concours. Perfectly clean, the vehicle has been groomed down to the tire treads. Painted and chromed surfaces are mirror-like. Dust and dirt are banned, and materials used are correct and superbly fitted.

#2. Excellent

#2 vehicles could win a local or regional show. They might even be former #1 vehicles that have been driven or have aged. Seasoned observers will have to look closely for flaws but will be able to find some. The paint, chrome, glass and finishes will all appear as excellent. The vehicle drives as a new vehicle of its era would.

#3. Good

#3 vehicles drive and run well but are not used for daily transportation. The casual passerby will not find any visual flaws, but these vehicles might have some incorrect parts. #3 vehicles could possess some, but not all, of the issues of a #4 vehicle, but they will be balanced by other factors such as fresh paint or a new, correct interior.

#4. Fair

#4 vehicles are daily drivers, with flaws visible to the naked eye. The chrome might have pitting, the windshield might be chipped and perhaps the body has a minor dent. Imperfect paintwork, split seams or a cracked dash might be present. No major parts are missing, but there might be non-stock additions. A #4 vehicle can also be a deteriorated restoration.