The best Android phone to buy in 2023

The Android ecosystem is all about choice. While iPhone owners have a smaller pool of new devices to pick from when it’s time to upgrade, there’s a huge range of new Android phones every year. Some of them even fold in half! You want a built-in stylus? A flagship processor for less money? Maybe even — dare I say it — an unapologetically *pink* phone with matching earbuds? You’ve got options on Android.

On the flip side, all that choice can make for some hard decisions. Here’s where I’d like to help; I’ve tested a whole boatload of recent Android phones, and I think there are some real winners in the current crop. It’s all a matter of what you’re looking for, what you’re comfortable spending, and what your definition of a “reasonably sized phone” is. (I have my own, personally.)

And haven’t you heard? It’s hot foldable summer, and there are a bunch of new folding phones debuting over the next few months. Motorola’s Razr Plus looks really promising with a huge cover screen, the Google Pixel Fold is arriving soon with a likable new form factor, and OnePlus says it’ll have a (likely less expensive) foldable this year. If you’re curious about foldables, you might want to hold off for a few months until all the options are on the table.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>What I’m looking for

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-

underline-white”>A great screen

The best Android phones have plenty of resolution to cover their large display area, which means 1080p or higher. A fast refresh rate of at least 120Hz is preferred — animations and scrolling look super smooth at that rate — and even better if it’s variable down to 1Hz to save on battery life.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>Wireless charging

Most phones on this list offer wireless charging, though not all do. Lack of wireless charging isn’t a complete deal-breaker, but it’s becoming an essential feature for a lot of people since it’s convenient for charging many different kinds of devices.

If you live in the US, I have some bad news about the Android market, though. For complicated reasons having to do with “capitalism” and “geopolitics,” we don’t get nearly as many of the options as you’ll find in Asia and Europe — brands like Huawei, Xiaomi, Honor, and Oppo just aren’t available here. I’ve limited this guide to the devices I’ve personally tested in depth; thus, it is a fairly US-centric set of recommendations.

With that in mind, it’s also worth acknowledging that most people in the US get their phones “for free” from their wireless carrier. If you can manage it, buying a phone unlocked will give you the most flexibility and freedom if you end up wanting to change carriers in the near future. Phone manufacturers also offer financing and trade-in deals to make payment more manageable. But if you’re happy with your carrier and the free phone on offer is the one you really want, by all means, take the free phone. Just make sure you understand the terms, especially if you need to change plans to cash in on

the deal.

However you go about it, you have some fantastic options for your next Android phone.

a:hover]:text-black [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-e9 dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63″>*The S23 is an all-around winner with a great camera and high-quality build.*

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-blurple-1″>Read my full review of the Samsung Galaxy S23 Plus.

a:hover]:text-black [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-e9 dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-

underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63″>*There’s no telephoto lens, but it’s still a top-notch camera system overall.*

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-blurple-1″>Read my full review of the Pixel 7 and Pixel 7 Pro.

a:hover]:text-

black
[&>a:hover]:shadow
-underline-black
dark:[&>a:hover]:t
ext-gray-e9
dark:[&>a:hover]:s
hadow-underline-
gray-63
[&>a]:shadow-
underline-gray-13
dark:[&>a]:shadow-

underline-gray-63″>*The S23 Ultra stands alone.*

*a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-blurple-1″>***Read my full review of the**

Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra.

a:hover]:text-black [&>a:hover]:shadow-

underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-e9 dark:[&>a:ho

ver]:shadow-underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13

dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63″>*The OnePlus 11 5G misses a*

couple of flagship features but trades them in for excellent

performance at a lower price.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-

franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-blurple-1″>Read my full review of

the OnePlus 11 5G.

a:hover]

:text-black [&>a:hover]:shad

ow-
underlin
e-black
dark:[&>

a:hover]
:text-
gray-e9
dark:[&>

a:hover]
:shadow-
underlin
e-

gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underlin

e-
gray-13
dark:[&>
a]:shado

w-
underlin
e-
gray-63”

>There's nothing quite as versatil

e as the Z Fold 4 on the market.

a:hover]
:shadow-
highligh
t-

franklin[&>a]:shadow-underlin

e-blurple-1″>Read my full

review of the Samsung Galaxy Z

Fold 4.