

# iPhone 4S

**Consumer Choice** brings you our independent lab test results of the iPhone 4S

 **REPORT** by *Jenny Harrow*

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The latest incarnation of the iPhone, the 4S, was launched in early October this year to slight disappointment from those expecting an iPhone 5. Having said that, the **Choice Buy** iPhone 4S is clearly one of the best phones *Consumer Choice* has ever tested. The main criticism we had of the iPhone 4 was the reception issues, which significantly the 4S doesn't suffer from thanks to a redesigned antenna. It is still very expensive and can be bought from the apple website for €599 for the 16GB version, €699 for the 32GB or €799 for the 64GB version and comes in black or white. The new iPhone 4S isn't hugely different to the iPhone 4 and if you already own the previous version you can upgrade the software to iOS 5. It is available on all the major Irish mobile phone networks.

## iCloud

Externally, the new iPhone 4S looks identical to the iPhone 4. But inside the phone the new OS has changed quite a lot of things. iCloud is a set of free cloud services that work with your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac or PC to automatically and wirelessly store your content in iCloud and push it to all your devices. The idea is that when content changes on one device, all your other devices are updated automatically

and wirelessly. Using iCloud you can synchronise photos, bookmarks and your calendar, but not videos. You can also synchronise Outlook contacts via iCloud or Gmail contacts via iTunes.

## Siri

The iPhone 4S also comes with a very nice 'personal assistant' called "Siri". Siri is able to recognize speech and also understand semantics. This means that if you ask 'Do I need an umbrella tomorrow' it delivers the weather forecast for tomorrow. If you ask 'Where is Los Angeles?' Siri says, 'Here is Los Angeles' and shows it on Google maps. 'I love you' delivers funny answers like 'you can't', or 'all you need is love and an iPhone'. "What's the meaning of life" delivers '42'. It is possible to dictate messages or emails using Siri but not to open programs or create contacts. However, it currently lacks information on Ireland so can't guide you if you're looking for local shops or services yet.

## The test results

Apple says 'it just works' and this is a really easy phone to use. The layout of the menus and interface are intuitive to use and the touchscreen is incredibly responsive. Battery life is also better than the iPhone 4 according to our test

results.

The 8MP camera produces great photos and videos that are of improved quality compared to the iPhone 4. It includes a new custom lens, a larger f/2.4 aperture and an advanced hybrid IR filter that produces sharper, brighter and more accurate images. New features in the Camera and Photos apps give you instant access to the camera right from the lock screen, and you can also use the volume-up button to quickly snap a photo.

The video sound quality is also better than its predecessor. The sound quality with the delivered headphones is great as you would expect from Apple. It's also incredibly easy to connect to the internet and the Safari web browser is great.

- Handset: ★★★★★
- Calling and SMS: ★★★★★
- Ease of use: ★★★★★
- Camera: ★★★★★
- Video: ★★★★★
- Music: ★★★★★
- Email: ★★★★★
- Internet: ★★★★★
- Score: **77%**

Star ratings are out of five.