

AUTO BRAND SPOTLIGHT 2024



Acura



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY:

Vehicles feature satellite communication systems with real-time traffic, super handling all-wheel drive, and variable valve timing and lift electronic control.

HISTORY: The Acura brand was introduced in the U.S. by Honda as a separate luxury car division in 1986.

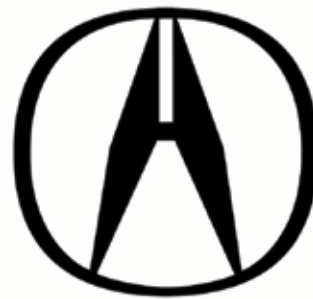
FAMOUS MODELS: Legend, NSX, MDX.

KNOWN FOR: Consistently scoring high in J. D. Power's quality and satisfaction surveys.

Technology and Precision

Since debut in 1986 with just two vehicle models, Acura has grown into its niche as Honda's luxury brand. Acura's products are well known for innovation, high performance and meticulous craftsmanship. Acura's Legend was the first luxury Japanese car in the U.S. market, and it was extremely effective in competition with existing European luxury cars.

Acura's reputation for innovation was cemented in 1990 with the debut of the NSX, which offered an all-aluminum body and Acura's Variable Valve Timing and Lift Electronic Control (VTEC).



The vehicles produced by Acura expand upon Honda's technological innovation. The AcuraLink Real-Time Traffic and Weather, for example, shows weather conditions for any location and alerts the driver if a weather-related problem exists along the

planned route.

Acura's sophisticated driver aids such as automatic collision-mitigation braking, active cruise control, and blind-spot detection are now nearly standard on all models.

In addition, the manufacturer's Integrated Dynamics System (IDS) tailors the vehicle's independent suspension to accommodate the driver's preference for either a more sporting or a more comfortable ride.

In 2024, Acura's focus on future vehicle designs will continue to combine power, performance and style with a car that's fun to drive.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

ZDX



First all-electric Acura, with an estimated range of 325 miles. The high-resolution digital cockpit instrument cluster and color touchscreen are both customizable.

INTEGRA



The most powerful Integra ever comes with 200-horsepower, 1.5-liter VTEC turbo or 320-horsepower, 2.0-liter VTEC turbo engines. Six-speed manual transmission available.

MDX



The luxury 290-horsepower, V-6 SUV offers stylishness and dependability, and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety named it a top safety pick.

Audi



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Aluminum space frame technology allows Audi to create cars that are easier to handle, maneuver and accelerate.

HISTORY: Founded in 1910 by August Horch, the Audi symbol's four rings represent its early merger with three other German companies.

FAMOUS MODELS: TT, A4, A8, 100, S8.

KNOWN FOR: Cutting-edge technology, high-end comfort and bona fide luxury.

Innovative German Design

Few automobile manufacturers can claim a place among the top echelon of designers and innovators, and Audi is definitely one of them. Since being founded by August Horch in Germany in 1910, this automaker has enjoyed a consistently excellent reputation as a producer of luxury cars.

Since being purchased by Volkswagen in 1964, Audi has maintained a prominent place in the American auto industry. In 1980, Audi kicked things up a notch with the introduction of the Quattro at the Geneva Auto Show. That



model has since been discontinued, but the all-wheel drive technology that made it so fresh and exciting — especially as a sport coupe — continues to be an Audi mainstay to this day. Never before had the world seen a high-performance vehicle with all-wheel drive, and Audi never looked back.

One of the most remarkable things about Audi crafts-

manship is the aluminum space frame technology it uses across the board. This design allows Audi vehicles to handle better and accelerate faster. When Audi's exquisite interiors are thrown into the mix, it's easy to see why this German brand has won over so many lifelong fans through the years.

In 1996, Audi underwent a major overhaul and launched new models like the A3 and A4. Along with the Audi TT, these vehicles have become the flagships of the Audi name. Audi's most luxurious sedan is the A8.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

Q5



Audi's bestseller for about a decade, with variants including gas-only models (40 TFSI and 45 TFSI), plug-in hybrid (55 TFSI E Quattro), and the sporty SQ5.

Q6



The new mid-size electric Q6 and Q6 Sportback E-Tron models slot in between the compact Q4 and the flagship Q8, with an expected range of 330-350 miles.

Q8



Audi's premium electric Q8 E-Tron UV features improved range capability. The Q8 also boasts 402 horsepower and a 0-60 mph time of 5.4 seconds with boost engaged.

BMW



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: BMW's cutting-edge performance tech is the benchmark for the world.

HISTORY: The automotive portion of BMW was founded in 1928; the company allowed Rolls Royce and Bentley to start using BMW engines in the early '90s.

FAMOUS MODELS: 5 Series, Z4 Roadster.

KNOWN FOR: Precision engineering, high-performance sports sedans and advanced, forward-thinking style.

Pushing the Envelope

BMW isn't afraid to try new things. As a company with decades of experience engineering some of the finest automotive machines on the planet, BMW has made its reputation with its meticulous, highly functional design, but also has remained relevant by refusing to simply settle into a groove.

Aside from designing a new test electric vehicle, BMW also is exploring the opposite end of the sustainability spectrum with a rugged, no-doors, no-roof, no-extra-padding outdoor vehicle that makes you



wonder if you're in a car at all. The overwhelming success of the Z4 Roadster, with its incredibly sleek body and smooth handling, has kept BMW exactly where it needs to be — pushing the design envelope without sacrificing either

precision or style.

Consider the classic 5 Series, an intelligent vehicle that functions as a family car but also has the exhilarating driving dynamics of a top-notch sports sedan. Because BMW manufactures a vehicle for every type of lifestyle and refuses to stop innovating on a variety of fronts, the company is poised to continue achieving magnificence in the years to come.

In 2024, BMW will offer a new i4 and a broader range of 7 Series and i7 models, while introducing the 8.5 operating system.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

X1 M35I XDRIVE



Now boasting a huge power increase of 71 horsepower, up to 312 in total, with aerodynamic improvements in the bumpers, side skirts, rear diffuser and spoiler.

5 SERIES



New 5 series cars include 48-volt hybrids, a plug-in, and two completely electric models. They've grown in length, width, height and wheelbase.

M3 CS



BMW M celebrated its 50th anniversary last year with the lightweight new BMW M4 CSL. Now the sedan gets a sporty makeover, taking inspiration from BMW's GT3 race cars.

Buick



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: The latest Buick models feature a blind spot indicator light on external mirrors and rear view cameras to improve safety.

HISTORY: The first Buick automobile was built in 1899. The company was established in Flint, Michigan, in 1903. By 1908, it was considered a leading car manufacturer.

FAMOUS MODELS: Enclave, Lucerne, Roadmaster, Regal.

KNOWN FOR: Affordability, luxury, performance and comfort.

Luxury at a Practical Price

The Buick brand name has been active in the auto industry since the very beginning. It serves as the entry-luxury division for General Motors, providing affordable alternatives to other luxury vehicles. Buick jumps out of the gate in 2024 with a continued focus on comfort, performance and safety. It's rolling out a long list of high-tech safety features across many vehicles in its lineup, including a Rear Cross Traffic Alert and Side Blind Zone Alert.

Many of the upscale, high-tech safety features seem more reminiscent of cutting-edge Volvo features than what



domestic family cars have traditionally offered. Buick also is moving its cars upscale and closer to what many drivers would expect from a more expensive luxury brand.

The quality construction and smooth, quiet driving feel rival

even its cousins from the Cadillac brand. Cadillac will also introduce 5G connectivity in 2024.

Overall, the Buick brand is in the middle of a renaissance that puts a new focus on the vehicle experience, from the silence of its engines to the precision build quality inside the cabin.

Its styling also improved in recent years, most notably on the handsome LaCrosse sedan. With a long history and exciting future, Buick is continuing to provide quality luxury vehicles at an entry-level price. It's proving it can provide a better luxury value than ever before.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

ENVISTA



New coupe-like SUV features a turbocharged 1.2-liter three-cylinder engine, 8-inch digital gauge display, and an 11-inch touchscreen infotainment system.

ENCORE GX



Their smallest SUV gets a refreshed look with reshaped headlights, bumpers and grille, while becoming the first U.S. model to feature Buick's updated crest.

ENCLAVE



Buick's mid-size luxury SUV is the largest in their lineup, with a six- or seven-passenger capacity and a standard 3.6-liter V-6.

Cadillac



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Intelligent cruise control and blind zone alerts make it easier to stay safe; the CUE digital interface is cutting-edge.

HISTORY: The Cadillac Automobile Co. was born in 1902 and quickly gained a reputation as making the world's most luxurious vehicles.

FAMOUS MODELS: Seville, Escalade, Eldorado.

KNOWN FOR: The American luxury car answer to Germany's Mercedes-Benz and England's Jaguar.

True American Luxury

For decades, Cadillac, along with Chevrolet and Buick, has been one of GM's core brands. Cadillac is the brand that says "luxury" like no other American-made car. Despite a long and storied history, and despite being indelibly etched into the American imagination, Cadillac had lost some of its luster by the 1990s. After a dramatic reinvention, including the introduction of the exciting CTS sports sedan and popular Escalade luxury SUV, this American brand once again competes with the world's best. Cadillac continued its focus



on breaking luxury boundaries into the 2020s. The brand moved upmarket, competing more directly with high-end cars from BMW and Mercedes-Benz by introducing the CT6 at

the top of its range. It also remained focused on powerful, performance-oriented, muscular luxury vehicles like the CT5-V Blackwing.

In short, the name Cadillac has conveyed luxury and style in a distinctly American way for decades. As GM rebounds, the Cadillac legacy will not just survive; rather, it will continue to set the trend for both American and foreign automakers looking to design classy luxury vehicles that would make anybody proud to own one. It is, as the saying goes, becoming the Cadillac of automobiles once again.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

CT5-V BLACKWING



Its supercharged V-8 engine offers a brawny 668 horsepower, with standard manual six-speed transmission. The Blackwing zooms to 60 mph in just 3.6 seconds.

LYRIQ



An EV SUV with the luxurious interior feel of Cadillac's classic DeVille, paired with the same Ultium battery as GMC's Hummer EV truck.

CELESTIQ



Don't look for this new luxury sedan at your local dealer showroom. Celestiqs are special-ordered to individual specifications — and then delivered to the customer.

Chevrolet



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: OnStar offers safety, convenience and information; the electric Volt is already revolutionizing the auto industry.

HISTORY: Started by racecar driver Louis Chevrolet and General Motors founder William Durant in 1911. Purchased by GM in 1918.

FAMOUS MODELS: Camaro, Corvette, Silverado, Suburban.

KNOWN FOR: Affordable family cars, V-8-powered performance vehicles, and tough work trucks.

Affordable, Powerful Style

For nearly a century, Chevrolet has stood for value and style that everyone can afford. From its start as a brand to compete with Ford's Model T to today's high-tech family cars, Chevy has always been about bringing quality to the masses. Now, more than ever before, it's also a brand in transition.

Chevy is entering a new era where car buyers and the government are demanding more efficiency across the board, which means an increasing emphasis on smaller cars that sip very little fuel. The redesigned



Chevy Volt — an electric car — was even conceived so that it only uses gasoline for long, extended trips. To drive home the point on efficiency, Chevrolet introduced a lineup of efficient crossover vehicles, some of which get more than 30 mpg on the highway. That's an astounding figure for a midsize SUV, setting the bar for crossover vehicles

around the world.

At the same time, Chevy is holding onto its heritage as a maker of muscle cars and powerful, tough pickups. The Camaro harkens back to Detroit's glory days in the 1960s, and huge, rugged vehicles like the new generation Silverado pickup and full-size Suburban SUV still set the standard for American workhorses.

From its smallest commuter cars to its biggest, most luxurious SUVs, there's a century of hard-working, blue-collar strength behind every vehicle.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

TRAVERSE



The next-generation Traverse gets a rugged new look and feel, with twin-clutch all-wheel drive, lifted suspension, 18-inch wheels and all-terrain tires.

CAMARO



This might represent the end of an era as the last gas-only version. In the meantime, there are 335-horsepower V-6 and a thumping 455-horsepower V-8 options.

TRAX



Another redesign, the front-wheel drive Trax has more space and size. It's powered by a 137-horsepower, turbo-charged three-cylinder with a six-speed transmission.

Chrysler



VEHICLES TO WATCH

PACIFICA



This is the only van that's both gas and plug-in. This is also where Stow 'n Go debuted, as the second-row seats fold into the floor. Pacifica has impressive powertrain options, too.

300



This is the last model year for the full-size Chrysler 300, which was introduced in 2011. The standard Pentastar V-6 can be configured as all- or rear-wheel drive.

VOYAGER



The Voyager went fleet-only in 2022, and the base L trim was dropped. That leaves the LX option, with the same 287-horsepower, 3.6-liter V-6 as the Pacifica.

AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Stow 'n Go seats in the Town & Country. uConnect delivers entertainment and navigation.

HISTORY: Founded by Walter P. Chrysler in 1925. Purchased by Fiat in 2009.

FAMOUS MODELS: 300, Town & Country, Sebring, PT Cruiser.

KNOWN FOR: Classic styling combined with performance, particularly in the 300 models.

Stylish American Value

Chrysler is the flagship American brand of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, which also manufactures the Dodge, Jeep and Ram brands. Chrysler models generally are aimed at aspiring consumers, offering luxury features and stylish looks at reasonable prices.

In the early years, Chrysler vehicles were the first to make luxury performance features standard, including carburetor air filters and full-pressure lubrication. Chrysler also was the first to introduce innovations eventu-



ally adopted industry-wide.

In recent years Chrysler models have used interesting, classic styling to emphasize their all-American roots. The appeal of these vehicles lies in their attractive design, reminders of better days for this and other American manufacturers. Chrysler still offers strong models that stand out among the crowd of

other vehicles in their class. These models prove to be impressively competitive and popular with buyers in a market flooded with efficient but bland options. Cars like the 300 are especially noteworthy for their good looks and impressive performance.

The 300, available with a HEMI V8 engine, offers a roomy cabin and head-turning body, while the Chrysler Pacifica is considered one of the world's best minivans after a redesign. It's also available in an efficient hybrid version.

Dodge



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Hemi V-8 engines are practically synonymous with the Dodge name, and a digital dash on the Dart broke new ground for this brand.

HISTORY: Founded by brothers Horace and John Dodge in 1914, Dodge has experienced several ups and downs throughout its storied history.

FAMOUS MODELS: Charger, Caravan, Neon and Avenger.

KNOWN FOR: Solid, reliable and powerful vehicles.

Powerful, Sturdy Transit

The story of Dodge is very much the story of America; the fortunes and successes of this auto manufacturer have always been intricately linked to the economy and mood of the United States.

Upon being founded by brothers John and Horace Dodge in 1914, Dodge immediately took off on an ambitious course of expansion and innovation. Basic passenger vehicles were quickly followed by roadsters and four-door sedans; by 1917, Dodge was already producing trucks. World Wars I and II



played a huge role in the development of the Dodge brand during the 20th century. After the second conflict, Dodge introduced HEMI-driven vehicles like the Coronet that brought a new level of vim and vigor to everyday automobiles.

In many ways, the 1960s was Dodge's heyday, with popular models like the Dart — along with its muscle car, the Charger — cementing

their place in households across America. It was the Caravan, in 1984, that breathed new life into Dodge's fortunes. As the first bona fide minivan, the Caravan helped make Dodge relevant once more.

Today, Dodge has doubled down on its performance-oriented heritage with its 710-horsepower Hellcat-powered models, the Challenger and Charger, which are the most powerful muscle cars ever to come from Detroit. It's setting the stage for a fun future with lots of burning rubber.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

DURANGO SRT HELLCAT



A striking combination of the supercharged 6.2-liter engine from the Challenger and Charger Hellcat inside a traditional SUV frame. That's 710 horsepower.

DURANGO R/T



The R/T Tow N Go leverages the SRT's menacing looks, 5.7-liter HEMI V-8 performance, best-in-class towing of 8,700 lbs. and an increased top speed of 145 mph.

HORNET



Reminiscent of the Alfa Romeo Tonale, only easier on the budget. The Hornet is offered with a similar plug-in powertrain but also in a nonhybrid version.

Ford



VEHICLES TO WATCH

F-150



2024 edition offers reconfigured engine lineups, a spruced-up cabin with bigger screens, a new tailgate design, and even an optional 400-horsepower V-8.

MUSTANG



Ford's seventh-generation Mustang has slightly reworked styling, an all-new interior, improved powertrains and revised chassis – but with the same reliable 5.0-liter V-8.

MAVERICK



Leading the way in the return of small pickups, the Maverick sits on the Escape crossover's frame to fit in behind Ford's mid-size Ranger.

AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Ford's next-generation SYNC system allows passengers to connect to the Internet; great gas and hybrid mileage.

HISTORY: Formed in 1903 by Henry Ford. This groundbreaking Detroit company introduced mass-production techniques that enhanced the capacity of all car companies.

FAMOUS MODELS: Mustang, Expedition, Ranger, Explorer, F-150.

KNOWN FOR: Affordability, power, performance and durability.

Quality Cars for the Masses

The Ford Motor Company has always been careful to provide high-performance vehicles within the budgetary limitations of the average consumer. In the early 20th century, this enhanced the productive capacity of humanity as Ford cars reached critical mass.

This commitment to the provision of affordable and technologically advanced machines persists; Ford is leading the charge in the pursuit of energy efficiency. As the market calls for efficient, affordable and innovative new vehicles, Ford is prepared to



meet this challenge — including with new electric vehicles such as the Mustang Mach-E. Its SUVs and crossover vehicles remain popular for doing just that: mixing efficiency with desirable tech features.

Ford continues to dominate the truck market with its F-150 pickup. This truck not only offers the kind of raw power and durability to do the toughest jobs, but it also has the

refinement of a luxury car in many ways. Whether doing hard work at a job site or traveling across America in comfort, the new, aluminum-intensive F-150 is designed to do it all.

Ford also revived a classic nameplate that is beloved among enthusiasts: the Bronco. This hard-nosed, rugged SUV is back in a modern form that stays true to its trail-climbing roots without sacrificing comfort or modern conveniences and connectivity. It's another reason the Ford name will stand for value in the years to come.

Genesis



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Genesis Connected Services links to Amazon's Alexa to do several actions. It can lock and unlock the doors remotely, start the engine with climate control and more.

HISTORY: Started as a luxury spinoff from the Hyundai brand in 2017.

FAMOUS MODELS: G80, G90.

KNOWN FOR: Power, luxury and technology designed around the human experience, with an emphasis on being easy to use.

A New Kind of Luxury Car

America's newest luxury car brand, Genesis, offers a fresh take on upscale vehicles through its "human-centered" philosophy. Genesis has announced that it plans to offer a full line of six models and will compete with the most storied sellers of luxury cars around the world. The G90 sets the tone for the brand as its flagship luxury sedan.

Available with a 5.0-liter V8 engine, the G90 is a powerful, sleek and sophisticated car that is designed to make the newest technologies easy to



use. Extensive use of real wood, leather and metal trim gives the cabin of Genesis models a rich, upscale feel.

In addition to the vehicles themselves, Genesis aims to offer a first-class ownership experience for its customers. The Genesis Experience, as they call it, includes:

- Three years/36,000 miles complimentary scheduled maintenance.
- Three years/36,000 miles

complimentary valet services.

- Three years complimentary Genesis Connected Services including Connected Care, remote and guidance.

- Three years complimentary SiriusXM Travel Link (traffic and data) and Map Care.

- Best-in-industry warranty with enhanced roadside assistance and concierge services.

Genesis models are known for their technology, too. They aim to provide cutting-edge features that are designed in a way that makes them easy and intuitive to use.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

GV70



This compact SUV features a standard turbocharged four-cylinder, with an optional twin-turbo V-6. The GV70 boasts all-wheel drive and an automatic eight-speed transmission.

GV80



Another SUV with standard turbocharged four-cylinder or optional twin-turbo V-6, the GV80 stands out because of its luxurious, designer interior.

ELECTRIFIED GV70



The Electrified GV70 offers the same spacious interior and outstanding performance as the GV70 but with technologies designed exclusively for electric vehicles.

GMC



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Developer of luxury hybrid technology for large vehicles; Denali line pushes boundaries of truck luxury.

HISTORY: Founded in 1908, it is now one of the biggest automakers in the world.

FAMOUS MODELS: Yukon, Sierra.

KNOWN FOR: The premiere manufacturer of light-duty trucks and sport utility vehicles.

Tough, Luxurious Trucks

For decades, the extensive line of GMC trucks dominated the marketplace. It was more than a simple vehicle; it was a lifestyle, and a sturdy representation of the American ideology of individualism. Today's GMC is determined to show the world what it can do best: manufacture long-lasting trucks for working folks. Greater fuel efficiency, and an emphasis on integrating electric/fuel hybrid technology into the existing models, has become a part of most of GMC's new line of trucks and SUVs.



The company is bolstered by two things: its refusal to give up, even in a relatively difficult economic climate, and its clear determination to adapt to the changing demands of the market, without alienating its core audience. GMC's trucks are still geared toward working folks, but the working folks of the 21st century.

GMC is modifying its template of the 20th-century truck so that it encompasses the needs of the 21st-century family, too.

The manufacturer also is known for its luxury, particularly on the high-end Denali line, which offers the features of a luxury car with the toughness of a GMC truck. In fact, the Denali line is taking on a life of its own, representing a huge portion of sales for many of GMC's models. It shows that this brand makes a statement in both style and power.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

ACADIA



This redesigned mid-sized three-row SUV includes a new 328-horsepower turbo, a roomier and more luxurious interior with an expanded 15-inch touchscreen.

SIERRA



This heavy-duty pickup's base powertrain features a 401-horsepower, 6.6-liter V-8 with an automatic 10-speed transmission. A 470-horsepower Duramax turbo-diesel V-8 is also available.

CANYON



GMC launched this new mid-size in 2023, so no significant changes are planned other than adding a taller AEV Edition model.

Honda



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Honda has made profitable and potentially market-changing advances in fuel cell, natural gas, ethanol and hybrid electric vehicles.

HISTORY: Founded in Japan in 1946 by motorcycle builder Soichiro Honda; expanded to the U.S. in 1959.

FAMOUS MODELS: Civic, Accord, CR-V.

KNOWN FOR: Efficiency, reliability and innovation.

Rock-Solid Reliability

Soichiro Honda's dream to build a fast, efficient motorcycle took him nearly 20 years and several failed attempts to achieve — until he began to trust his instincts and stop racing around at dangerous speeds.

Honda's ability to mass-produce extremely well-engineered, highly efficient and innovative vehicles has paid off on a global scale and shows no signs of slowing down.

The company is aggressively developing a new fleet of vehicles that relies on alternative energy sources, including natural gas, ethanol, and fuel cell



batteries.

As a sponsor of the Copenhagen climate talks, Honda continues to champion and increase the impressive gas mileage of its vehicles. Honda's intrinsic belief that efficiency and profitability can be achieved in one package makes this global car company

a pioneer in the new realm of environmentally friendly profit.

One of its most notable cars is the Insight hybrid, an affordable and advanced vehicle — and proof that green technology can be brought to the masses.

Honda also continues its reputation for reliability with cars like the rock-solid Accord, one of the world's most popular vehicles. The Civic, available in sedan and hatchback models, and CR-V crossover continue to be hot sellers thanks to the value and reputation they bring to the table.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

CR-V



Reintroduced in 2023, the new CR-V has plenty of space, a 190-horsepower turbocharged engine, all- or front-wheel drive, and the option for the 204-horsepower hybrid (40 mpg).

PROLOGUE



This is Honda's second EV after the Clarity sedan. Created in collaboration with GM, the Prologue has similar dimensions to the mid-size Passport.

ACCORD



Redesigned last year, Honda's familiar four-door sedans are powered by a fuel-efficient hybrid four-cylinder, but also offered in a turbocharged 1.5-liter four-cylinder.

Hyundai



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY:

Hybrid cars, advanced infotainment systems and new safety features are setting Hyundai cars apart.

HISTORY: The Hyundai Motor Company has been around — albeit under a slightly different name — since 1947. It didn't start producing cars until 1968.

FAMOUS MODELS: Sonata, Elantra, Genesis.

KNOWN FOR: Feature-packed, reasonably priced cars.

Quality at a Great Price

After decades of struggling with a reputation for producing cheap economy cars, Hyundai has turned a corner and is now viewed positively by the vast majority of consumers. Since its humble beginnings in South Korea in 1947, to its gradual introduction into the world of automobile manufacturing beginning in 1968, Hyundai has rolled with the punches and has emerged on the other side a clear winner.

The 1970s saw Hyundai begin its true ascent into worldwide automobile manufacturing dominance. The



Pony, which became its flagship car, was marketed successfully in Latin America and then in Europe. In 1982, the Pony was redesigned and then unveiled in Canada the following year. Just one year after that, the subcompact Excel became the first Hyundai vehicle sold in the U.S. Production exploded, and Hyundai was on its way.

In order to remain relevant in the coveted American marketplace, Hyundai began producing trucks in 1987. Soon thereafter, the company unveiled what would become its most successful model: the Sonata. The Sonata was the first car produced exclusively for the North American market, and it proved to be a turning point for Hyundai.

Today, Hyundai has been ranked among the top companies on the J.D. Power Initial Quality Survey and is a respected brand among consumers. It's proof that high-quality cars can also be affordable.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

KONA



The new Kona is offered with two different gas-fed four-cylinder options, with a standard 147 horsepower, 2.0-liter engine. There's an all-electric, too.

SANTA FE



The redesigned Santa Fe now features a reimagined exterior design, updated interior, an extended wheelbase, and a new third row.

SONATA



More of a refresh than a redesign, the Sonata will have new lights, bumpers and interior tweaks. The standard 191 horsepower, 2.5-liter four-cylinder remains, with a new all-wheel drive option.

Infiniti



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Infiniti's Around View Monitor Package allows the driver to see the car from an above view while parking and negotiating lane changes.

HISTORY: This relatively new luxury division of Nissan Motor Company began selling automobiles in the U.S. market in 1989.

FAMOUS MODELS: Q45, G37, M, QX80d.

KNOWN FOR: Luxury, innovative options and technological sophistication.

High-Tech Opulence

Infiniti was created by Nissan Motor Company to market high-end automobiles to U.S. consumers. This Japanese automaker has provided a standard of excellence to which many big spenders return for a premium driving experience.

You can be sure the latest Infiniti models will include all the extravagant options that can enhance the comfort of a ride on the open road. Longtime fans of Infiniti will notice that its cars have a new naming scheme in recent years. While in the past, its cars and crossovers



have mixed up an alphabet soup of names, today's lineup is simplified.

Sedans are all prefixed with a Q, and crossovers and SUVs get a QX prefix, ranging from the compact QX50 to the QX80 luxury SUV with three rows of seating. It makes it easier to distinguish each vehicle's place in the

lineup. The redesigned QX60 aimed to keep the brand on top of competitors and industry trends. Infiniti continues to keep a finger on the pulse of the luxury consumer.

Technological upgrades help these new models stand out among high-end vehicles. One of the most interesting options is called the Around View Monitor Package. This technology takes the rear-view camera a step further, using video cameras mounted around the vehicle to give a complete, 360-degree view around the car that helps with parking or backing up.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

QX50



This compact luxury SUV offers a stylish design, elegant, eye-catching cabin, and a novel turbo-charged variable-compression four-cylinder engine.

QX60



Infiniti's mid-size SUV includes a front-wheel 295-horsepower V-6 engine, well-appointed cabin, nine-speed automatic transmission and optional all-wheel drive.

QX80



A large three-row SUV with a rich, nicely designed interior, the QX80 boasts a 400-horsepower V-8 engine for ample power.

Jaguar



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: New sleek, aerodynamic lines make the new Jaguars look like the real big cats more than ever.

HISTORY: Jaguar started as a British company in 1922; Ford bought Jaguar in 1989, and sold to Tata Motors of India in 2008. Jaguar is now part of Jaguar Land Rover.

FAMOUS MODELS: XJ, XK, S-Type, E-Type.

KNOWN FOR: Sophistication, luxury and class.

Poised to Pounce

Jaguar Land Rover was purchased for \$2.3 billion from Ford Motor Company in 2008 by Tata Motors of India. Like any newer corporation eager to prove it can compete with the big boys, Tata has brought plenty of innovation and new ideas to the Jaguar and Land Rover brands.

Jaguar advanced its brand in a major way with the introduction of the F-PACE. The F-PACE is a spacious, midsize SUV that also has excellent driving dynamics, luxurious appointments and sense of



style that all Jaguars are known for. Its introduction represented a new and exciting direction for the future of the brand.

Fortunately, the Jaguar XF and other new models have marked a change in Jaguar's course without abandoning its celebrated past. Jaguar lovers can expect the company to continue to deliver in 2024

and beyond. Newer electric models, including the I-PACE SUV, help bring the brand into a new era. And it has released the F-TYPE sports car in both convertible and coupe variants to rave reviews.

Jaguar is faced with an interesting position in the future as it balances a rich history of producing some of the most stylish cars in the world with the new needs of modern luxury buyers. Judging from its latest cars, this brand steeped in British tradition will continue to excel for years to come.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

F-PACE



This posh two-row mid-size SUV arrives with a standard 246-horsepower turbo four-cylinder engine, and a more muscular 395-horsepower turbocharged option.

XF



The lone sedan in a Jaguar lineup that's mostly SUVs, 2024's XF features excellent styling and a turbocharged four-cylinder engine that comes in 246- or 296-horsepower options.

I-PACE



Jaguar's legacy EV, the I-Pace is known for its refined design, with a Meridian sound system, 10-inch infotainment display and performance seats.

Jeep



VEHICLES TO WATCH

GRAND CHEROKEE



Jeep offers the Grand Cherokee as a mid-size two-row SUV, but also includes the L option with three rows and the Trailhawk with a standard plug-in hybrid system.

WRANGLER



This vehicle underscores how Jeep has transcended its humble military beginnings, offering many more powertrain options than its rivals – including a hybrid plug-in.

GLADIATOR



Ever wondered how a pickup truck bed would work on the back of a Wrangler? Jeep answers the question with the Gladiator, a vehicle made for off-road.

AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Jeep continues to excel in rock climbing and all-terrain durability; the company receives awards for its new safety features.

HISTORY: Commissioned by the U.S. government as a war vehicle in 1941; purchased by Chrysler in 1987.

FAMOUS MODELS: Cherokee, Wrangler, Patriot.

KNOWN FOR: Indestructibility in almost any environment.

Safety and Adventure

Although the stories about Jeep's name being a combination of "general" and "purpose" are questionable, the company's desire to create a vehicle that could travel on paved, unpaved or even nonexistent roads, is obvious for anyone to see.

Enthusiasts from around the world quickly embraced Jeep as the perfect vehicle in which to experience the outdoors. Years of innovation and refinement in engineering have increased Jeep's ability to not only handle rough terrain, but to do so safely.

Jeep occupies an unusual



place in the automotive industry; neither car nor truck, Jeep has forged its own identity as a rugged, reliable off-road machine, a welcome and trustworthy companion of adventuresome individuals. The spirit of Jeep is best exemplified in the Wrangler, the classic Jeep.

This vehicle is designed entirely for off-road driving, with the kind of high ground clearance and robust four-wheel-drive system that allow it to cross virtually any terrain on the planet.

The Wrangler, Jeep's most iconic vehicle, has a new design that stays true to its heritage while also gaining efficiency and refinement. By resisting pressure to significantly change the intent of its vehicles, Jeep has based its future survival on being exactly what it has always been – and by all accounts, this seems to be a lucrative path.

KIA



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Surprising perks abound for these cars, including USB ports, Sirius Satellite Radio and advanced safety features.

HISTORY: From the 1940s to the 1970s, Kia produced bicycles and scooters. Today, it is one of the top budget auto manufacturers in the world.

FAMOUS MODELS: Forte, Optima and Rio.

KNOWN FOR: Budget-friendly vehicles that are bursting with a surprising number of amenities and features.

Sporty Cars to Fit a Budget

In many ways, Kia Motors learned the art of auto manufacturing from the ground up. Upon debuting in South Korea back in 1944, the company produced bicycle parts and tubing. Over time, it segued into manufacturing the actual bicycles themselves; later, scooters and other motorbikes came along.

Kia finally made the leap into manufacturing cars in the 1970s. After partnering with Ford for some time to produce Mazda-derived cars for the South Korean market,



Kia became incorporated in the United States in 1992. Starting in Portland, Oregon, the car manufacturer began marketing its wares in 1994.

Gradually, it expanded its radius out of the Pacific Northwest and operates hundreds of dealers in the United States today. The first model debuted by Kia in the U.S. was the Sephia; from there, the car manufacturer jumped

into the SUV craze of the mid-1990s with its Sportage model.

Kia has emerged as one of the foremost budget vehicle manufacturers in the United States today. Enhanced warranty programs and the inclusion of several key features and innovations have made models like the Optima, Sedona and Forte immensely popular. While Kia was once known exclusively for budget-oriented cars, its vehicles are increasingly moving upmarket and becoming more luxurious.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

SPORTAGE



Offered as a two-row with a four-cylinder 187-horsepower engine or as a more powerful hybrid and plug-in hybrid. Front-wheel drive is standard, but all-wheel is available.

SELTOS



The refreshed Seltos fits in between Kia's smaller Soul and larger Sportage, with more cargo room than its principal rivals. Two different four-cylinder engines available.

CARNIVAL



An SUV-inspired van, the Carnival is value-packed and comfortable, with modern infotainment, front-wheel drive and driver-assistance features.

Land Rover



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY:

Touchscreen infotainment systems; advanced traction control systems; efficient Evoque bucks the energy-inefficient Land Rover stereotype.

HISTORY: Land Rover began in 1948 in the UK when auto designer Maurice Wilks was inspired by a tough World War II American Jeep.

FAMOUS MODELS: Range Rover, Range Rover Sport, Discovery LR3.

KNOWN FOR: Pricy and luxurious but powerful and safe.

Entering a New Era

Like all the brands and former brands of the big three automakers, Land Rover stands poised to enter into a new era.

Under Ford's leadership, Land Rovers gained a reputation for guzzling gas. Ford sold both Jaguar and Land Rover to the up-and-coming Tata Motors of India for \$2.3 billion in 2008.

Nowhere has the evolution been more evident than in the introduction of its iconic high-end off-roader, the Range Rover. It was completely redesigned from the ground up, and raised the bar for what is possi-



ble in a rugged, luxurious SUV. It's as comfortable as it is tough, capable of helping drivers relax on the highway or get to destinations far from pavement.

The Evoque also is turning heads for all the right reasons. A gorgeous, modern-looking

vehicle, it's also designed to be the most efficient Land Rover ever. As other brands struggled through the recession, just hoping to survive, Jaguar Land Rover reported a jump in its sales. Those are all good signs for this iconic British brand.

The reputation it's built — for constructing comfortable, luxurious off-road vehicles that can travel anywhere with the amenities of home — is just as secure as it ever was. As it enters a new era, Land Rover is showing how a brand can thrive when it makes great products.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

RANGE ROVER



Every model arrives with all-wheel drive and lots of ground clearance, with options including plug-in hybrid, V-8 powertrains and even massaging seats in both rows.

VELAR



This comfy all-wheel drive compact crossover comes with two different turbocharged engines — a 2.0-liter four-cylinder or a 3.0-liter six-cylinder.

RANGE ROVER SPORT



Aptly named the Sport, it delivers Range Rover luxury and comfort with power-packed powertrains that include a 542-horsepower, plug-in hybrid.

Lexus



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Lexus has led the way in key, up-and-coming innovations like pedestrian detection, driver facial recognition monitoring and lane-keep assistance.

HISTORY: Since being launched in the U.S. as the luxury branch of Toyota in 1989, Lexus has enjoyed an impeccable reputation.

FAMOUS MODELS: LS, IS and HS sedans and the GX and RX SUVs.

KNOWN FOR: Reliable luxury cars that bring technology, comfort and elegance to the table.

World-Class Luxury

From the very start, Lexus has been a force to be reckoned with in the luxury vehicle market. Since being introduced by Toyota in 1989, the goal of this brand has been to bring exquisite craftsmanship and unrivaled performance to United States consumers. Considering that Lexus sold its 1 millionth vehicle in 1999 — just in time for its 10th anniversary — it is safe to say that it got off to a phenomenal start.

Since then, Lexus has consistently produced solid, reliable cars that routinely earn top marks for design and quality.



Silent cabins and powerful engines are hallmarks of the Lexus brand and can be expected regardless of model.

Initially devoted to producing luxury sedans — the ES 250 and the LS 400 were its inaugu-

ral models — Lexus has expanded over the decades to include a line of luxury performance sedans like the GS, SUVs like the LX and even several hybrid-powered cars like the RX in recent years. Lexus' styling has also taken a new, much more aggressive turn, going from one of the automotive world's most conservative brands to one of its more forward-looking.

The NX and RX crossovers both turn heads with sharp styling, and the latest generation of the full-size LS flagship also looks sleeker and more coupe-like than ever before.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

GX



Lexus' off-road mid-size SUV gets a long-overdue redesign, with everything from an updated powertrain to more modern interior features.

RX450H+



There will be a third hybrid option for the RX SUV, after the RX350h and RX500h F: The plug-in hybrid EV version boasts a 2.5-liter inline-four gas engine.

TX



The TX shares a platform with the Toyota Grand Highlander, replacing the three-row RX-L. Three powertrains are offered, including a pair of hybrids.

Lincoln



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Intelligent Access with push-button start; collision warning with brake support

HISTORY: Founded in 1917 by Henry Leland, a former GM executive. Bought by Henry Ford in 1922 to become the luxury car division of Ford Motor Company.

FAMOUS MODELS: Zephyr (1936), Continental (1939), Town Car (1922, 1959, 1981-Present), Navigator SUV, MK Series.

KNOWN FOR: Large luxury cars, luxury SUVs.

History of Luxury Excellence

Lincoln was founded in 1917 by former General Motors executive Henry Leyland to build aircraft engines for WWI military airplanes. After the war, it was converted to luxury automobile manufacturing.

Henry Ford acquired the floundering company in 1922 to be the luxury car division of Ford Motor Company. Lincoln competed successfully with the likes of Pierce Arrow, Packard, Cadillac and other luxury brands with well-made touring cars like their 1929 model.

In 1936, a 4.4 liter V-12



engine was developed and installed in an attractive, flowing design coupe and sedan called "Zephyr." This model was so successful that it became a separate brand name under the Lincoln banner.

The Town Car name first appeared in 1922 on huge, limousine-style vehicles. It appeared again in 1959 as a trim package on Lincoln sedans. In

1981, Town Car became a separate model, about the time the Continental became a smaller Lincoln model.

Lincoln is expanding its success today into crossovers, including the Aviator with its focus on an extremely quiet, comfortable ride and an upscale, sophisticated cabin. The smaller Corsair combines power and technology beautifully. In addition, the family-friendly Navigator offers spacious, first-class accommodations that will continue to raise the bar for luxury for years to come.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

NAVIGATOR



Beyond their creature comforts, Navigators are available in long- and short-wheelbase options; both are powered by a twin-turbocharged 440-horsepower V-6 engine.

CORSAIR



Features a standard 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder with 250 horsepower. Upgrades to the Grand Touring trim include a plug-in hybrid with 266 horsepower.

NAUTILUS



There's been a huge update of Lincoln's mid-size luxury crossover. The base engine is still a turbocharged 250 horsepower, 2.0-liter but the new chassis has more room.

Maserati



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Maserati has always focused on sophisticated engineering solutions to improve performance. Ultralight alloys, hydraulic brakes, fuel injection, turbochargers and LED lighting were all moved forward by this company's engineers.

HISTORY: Founded in 1914 in Bologna, Italy, its reputation was forged on the racetrack including Formula One and sports cars.

FAMOUS MODELS: 250F, Bora, Quattroporte, GranTurismo.

KNOWN FOR: Exclusive Italian speed and style.

Italian Style and Speed

Any car fan can tell you what Maseratis are about: mixing race-bred speed with classy Italian styling that no other company can match.

The brand traces its roots to the five Maserati brothers who were pioneers of European car engineering in the early 20th century. They were experts at extracting the most speed from race cars, and after honing their skills for other companies, they became independent under their own name in 1926.

One of their first race cars won the famous Targa Florio



that same year, setting the stage for countless wins in sports car and grand prix racing in the decades to come. By the late 1950s, the company turned its attention more fully to road cars. It used many of the same innovations that brought the company so much success on the race-track and incorporated them into beautiful, stunningly

styled street-legal cars.

Some of the world's most iconic performance vehicles were built by Maserati in the 1960s and '70s, including the mid-engined Bora, with its futuristic, eye-catching body. Today, Maserati continues to build on its foundations of speed and style. Its cars are more luxurious than ever, and they retain an air of exclusivity and taste that few vehicles can match.

As new Maserati vehicles are rolled out, this is a brand to watch as it blends its heritage with a forward-looking vision.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

GRANTURISMO



This sports car is making a triumphant comeback, blending classic and new design elements. It's offered with a Nettuno twin-turbo V-6 engine or as an electric model.

MC20



Both the MC20 Coupé and Cielo feature 3.0-liter V-6 engines rated for 621 horsepower, with a unique twin-combustion approach styled after Formula 1 racing.

GHIBLI



The Ghibli is considered an "entry point" Maserati sedan, but drivers are giving up nothing in terms of power. It's available with a 424-horsepower V-6 or 572-horsepower V-8 engine.

Mazda



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Mazda has distinguished itself for years by including innovative and efficiently designed engines, like the Wankel and the Miller cycle engine, in its vehicles.

HISTORY: Began as a machine tool manufacturer in Hiroshima during the 1920s; first entered the car manufacturing world in the 1960s.

FAMOUS MODELS: Miata, Protege, 323, 626.

KNOWN FOR: Cars with exciting designs and fun-to-drive performance.

Budget-Minded Excitement

From machine tools to three-wheeled vehicles, all the way through to the sleek, slick — and wildly popular — cars that it produces today, there is no question that Mazda has long been an innovative and adventurous automobile manufacturer.

This Japanese automaker has proved its mettle in more ways than one, and enjoys a reputation for manufacturing exciting cars for the general public these days. Mazda's first four-wheeled car was produced in 1960. The R360 took off like wildfire, and set the stage for the brand's later popularity in North America.



The following decade marked the beginning of Mazda's presence in the United States; the RX-2 was its first American offering and it fared very well. Wankel engines and other innovative perks enhanced the brand's reputation considerably throughout

the 1970s.

Following a series of financial troubles, Ford purchased a 25% stake in Mazda in 1979. Since then, the two have been linked, and the merger has been a fruitful one. With it, the Mazda brand was reborn and enjoyed a major boost throughout the 1980s.

In 1990, the Mazda's MX-5 Miata — with its exceptional handling and overall aesthetic appeal — made a huge splash. Today, the Miata is the best-selling roadster in the world. Mazda also won the Le Mans race with its 787B model, cementing its reputation for producing fast, zippy cars.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

CX-50



This comes standard with a four-cylinder 187-horsepower engine and all-wheel drive. A brawnier 256-horsepower, turbocharged four-cylinder engine is also optional.

CX-30



For 2024, the CX-30 adds a 2.5 Carbon Turbo edition that mixes fresh exterior styling with turbocharged performance.

CX-90



The luxury CX-90 boasts a new 3.3-liter turbocharged inline six-cylinder engine, with either 280 or 340 horsepower, along with the option of a plug-in-hybrid powertrain.

Mercedes-Benz



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY:

BlueEFFICIENCY technology harnesses detailed user profiles to enhance energy efficiency based on the habits of Mercedes-Benz drivers.

HISTORY: Karl Benz invented the first petrol-fueled motorcycle in 1886. A Mercedes vehicle was marketed for sale in 1901. In 1926, the company began mass-producing cars.

FAMOUS MODELS:

C-Class, E-Class, S-Class, CL-Class, G-Class.

KNOWN FOR:

Luxury, dependability, performance.

Sophisticated Engineering

Mercedes-Benz has remained at the forefront of quality and reliability in the market of luxury automobiles. The company has maintained steady innovation in driving comfort throughout the 20th century, and its engineering is peerless. Mercedes-Benz automobiles are of legendary durability.

The Mercedes-Benz GL looks to be a true sales leader for large luxury SUVs. This model is back with brilliant options, making this comfortable and durable car a better value. The E-Class models are equipped with a variety of safety fea-



tures. Attention assist technology helps motorists stay awake on the road. Automatic emergency braking, lane tracking, and speed limit programs are included in a package of intelli-

gent technologies that put driver safety first.

Mercedes-Benz has introduced a long list of world-first technologies designed to make the driving experience more comfortable and safe. Mercedes also offers a full line of practical, family-friendly SUVs, ranging from the nimble GLC to the luxurious GLS.

With innovations in safety, energy efficiency and comfort, the Mercedes-Benz brand is poised to thrive in a market that craves more value for the money. Its cars have long been the most cutting-edge the world has ever seen.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

E-CLASS



Entry-level all-wheel drive E350 models include a 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine with 255 horsepower, while the E450 powers up to 375 horsepower with a 3.0-liter engine.

CLE COUPE



C-class was redesigned in 2022, but there was no coupe option until now. The CLE shares its wheelbase with Mercedes-Benz's new C-class sedans.

GLE-CLASS



This SUV got an exterior update for 2024, joining Mercedes-Benz's lineup of combined electric motor and turbocharged four-cylinder engines.

Mini



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Designed with a transverse-mounted four-cylinder engine and front-wheel drive so 80% of body area could be used for passengers.

HISTORY: Designed by Sir Alec Issigonis in 1959 for British Motor Cars (BMC) and introduced as an Austin Mini and Morris Mini.

FAMOUS MODELS: MINI Cooper, Clubman.

KNOWN FOR: Small, compact, transverse engine, sporty cars.

Sophisticated Engineering

It's interesting that the Mini — perhaps the most well-known British car — was re-made for the modern age by a thoroughly German company. BMW acquired the foundering Rover Group/BMC, which produced the original Mini, in 1994 and continued production of the small car through the 2000 model year.

The original Mini was offered in the three-door hatchback and estate car (a woodie) as well as a pickup. A Jeep-like Mini Moke was offered briefly. A John Cooper



Works Mini model was very successful as a racing and rally car.

In 2003, BMW introduced an all-new Mini Cooper. Using the original design intent, the car was all new, but resembled the classic version. The larger, more powerful Mini was an immediate hit. The vehicle is fun to

drive, carries four passengers in relative comfort, is quite fast and nimble and gets good fuel mileage. The Bavarian owners supplied engineering and production assistance, and the Mini is made to BMW's standards of excellence.

Mini has since expanded to a wider lineup than ever before, ranging from the sporty Hardtop 2 Door to the spacious and practical Countryman. It's proving that this brand's fun-to-drive appeal isn't limited exclusively to one kind of vehicle.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

COOPER



Offered as a two- or four-door hatchback, the Cooper comes with a standard 3-cylinder 134-horsepower engine, and an option to 189.

COOPER ELECTRIC



Boasting lots of driver-assistance technology, the all-electric Cooper SE's Signature Trim is now available with an upholstery upgrade.

COOPER JCW



Looking for something zippier? The special John Cooper Works edition of the Cooper packs a 228-horsepower, turbocharged four-cylinder wallop.

Mitsubishi



VEHICLES TO WATCH

OUTLANDER



Sharing a frame with Nissan's Rogue, the seven-passenger Outlander includes a standard 181-horsepower, four-cylinder engine. There's a plug-in hybrid option, too.

ECLIPSE CROSS



Smaller than Mitsubishi's Outlander, this small crossover includes standard all-wheel drive and a 1.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine.

MIRAGE



One of the last remaining subcompact hatchbacks available on the market, the mid-level Mirage LE now includes automatic headlights and rain-sensing windshield wipers.

AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Exciting perks like magnesium paddle shifters on late-model cars are Mitsubishi's way of promoting its close racecar driving ties.

HISTORY: With roots going back to the 1870s shipping industry in Japan, Mitsubishi has enjoyed a long and storied history in the world of automobile manufacturers.

FAMOUS MODELS: Lancer, Eclipse, Galant.

KNOWN FOR: Sleekly modern vehicles that boast top safety features and accessories

Adventurous, Sporty and Safe

As Japan's first mass producer of automobiles — the Model A first rolled off the line back in 1917 — Mitsubishi is a venerable name in that country. Its roots go way back to 1870, when the company focused on shipping and mining operations, among other things.

Throughout World War II, Mitsubishi focused its efforts on producing vehicles and ships for Japan's war efforts. The company didn't get into serious vehicle production and design until 1960, when the compact Mitsubishi 500



became its largest-scale passenger vehicle yet.

In 1971, Mitsubishi — with a 15% contribution by Chrysler — produced the Colt in the United States. Its alliance with Chrysler also meant that the car was marketed under the

Dodge brand. Beginning in 1982, Mitsubishi began selling its cars in the U.S. under its name. The company really became successful during the 1990s with the 3000GT and the Eclipse.

Today, Mitsubishi's focus on safety features and exotic perks is helping increase its market share. Mitsubishi has also gained a reputation for its performance vehicles. The company's emphasis has shifted to more efficient cars in recent years, including electric models, matching the demands of today's drivers.

Nissan



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Nissan's VQ engines, which are configured much like V-6 engines, have routinely been placed near the top of the list in terms of performance and craftsmanship.

HISTORY: Officially founded under the Nissan name in 1933, the company marketed its vehicles under the Datsun brand for several decades.

FAMOUS MODELS: Altima, Sentra and Maxima.

KNOWN FOR: Edgy, high-performance vehicles that span a broad array of categories.

History of Luxury, Speed

Although a relative newcomer to the average American — after all, Nissan didn't start using that name until 1981 — this automobile manufacturer has enjoyed a long history that spans back to 1933. The company initially restricted its focus to Japan.

After World War II, though, it expanded its efforts worldwide using the Datsun name. A 1960s merger with Prince Motor Company spurred the company to shift its focus to luxury vehicles. The first car that it designed exclusively for the U.S. market, the Datsun 510 sedan, increased its overall



popularity considerably.

During the 1970s, the Datsun 240Z sports car became a favorite of car enthusiasts around the world. In 1981, though, the Datsun name was phased out and the Nissan name was put into exclusive use. Fun cars like the 300ZX, the Sentra and the Maxima

helped give Nissan an edge over the competition, especially among sporty luxury vehicles.

A slight slump during the late 1990s was more than made up for after 2000, when Nissan unveiled the redesigned Altima and Sentra models — along with the Titan and the Armada — winning over new fans once more and proving yet again that it is a true force to be reckoned with in the world of slick, sleek cars that everyday people can enjoy.

No matter what name it has, it's good to see Nissan continue its focus on affordable luxury and performance.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

PATHFINDER



This mid-size SUV boasts a V-6 engine with an impressive maximum towing capacity of 6,000 pounds, more than its similarly sized rivals.

Z



Dating back to 1969, the Z has been remade with elements of other Nissan favorites — including taillights that recall the 1990s-era 300ZX.

ALTIMA



Nissan's old-reliable model features a 188-horsepower base engine, but there's an optional variable-compression turbocharged four-cylinder option with 248 horsepower.

Porsche



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Porsche has always been at the forefront of automotive technology. Most recently it has led in direct-shift gearboxes.

HISTORY: Porsche was started by Ferdinand Porsche in 1931 in Maffersdorf, Austria-Hungary.

FAMOUS MODELS: 911 Carrera, Cayenne, Boxster, Cayman.

KNOWN FOR: Speed, performance, luxury and maneuverability.

Limitless German Speed

Since the Porsche 356 first attained road certification in June 1948, this brand name has been associated with vehicles of premium performance and legendary luxury. Classic models like the 911 Turbo have captivated fans of sports cars for decades.

Porsche has always been known for its top racers, but the Porsche Panamera gave it entry into the sedan market. This high-performance luxury vehicle serves double duty as a daily driver and a speed demon that can hold its own on the autobahns.

The company also gives a nod to practicality with the



Cayenne, one of the highest-performance SUVs ever sold. Sparkling handling and finely honed, powerful lineup of engines make this a true Porsche that just happens to be family-friendly.

In addition, Porsche is at the forefront of electric car technology. As an engineering giant, this company continues to push the limits of performance while also seeking advanced hybrid drivetrains and other ways to produce power and speed without doing too much harm to the environment.

Porsche always produces cars at the pinnacle of automotive capability, and today's lineup is no exception. It builds on a long history of exceptional German engineering and subtly evolved styling. It's a wonderful combination of heritage and technology.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

911



The 2024 edition of the 911 boasts a six-cylinder turbocharged engine that sits behind the rear axle just like the 1964 original – but now with 473 horsepower.

CAYENNE



Available in both twin-turbo V-8 and plug-in hybrid, Porsche's largest SUV offers plenty of luxury items in keeping with the brand. Look for new design tweaks in 2024.

718 SPYDER RS



Porsche dropped the regular Spyder in favor of this more powerful new Spyder RS, which uses the same 4.0-liter, 493-horsepower, six-cylinder engine as the Cayman GT4 RS.

Ram



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: HEMI V-8 engines and the innovative RamBox storage system set Ram trucks apart from the competition.

HISTORY: While Dodge trucks have been around since the early 20th century, the Ram truck name first appeared in 1981.

FAMOUS MODELS: The Ram 1500, 2500 and 3500 all offer different levels of capability and comfort.

KNOWN FOR: Tough, powerful pickup trucks with distinctive big-rig styling.

A Truck Brand With Deep Roots

Ram may be one of the newest automotive brands, but it actually has a long history under the Dodge umbrella.

Until more recently, Ram was the name of a Dodge pickup truck that had developed a reputation for being tough, powerful and stylish. It only made sense for the Chrysler Corporation's new owners to look to a familiar name — Ram — when they wanted to separate their trucks into a completely different brand in 2009.

Today, Ram trucks still have that reputation for durability and capability, but they're no longer considered Dodge vehi-



cles. Dodge focuses on cars, and Ram focuses on trucks. The Ram truck name dates back to 1981, when it was named for the ram's head logo that had adorned Dodge vehicles since the 1930s.

The earliest Rams were popular with companies that operated fleets of work trucks, but

their sales numbers still came in a distant third behind Ford and Chevy. All that changed in 1994, though, when Dodge introduced an all-new, redesigned Ram that was styled like a big-rig truck.

The new body, comfortable cabin and strong performance helped the Ram quadruple sales volume from 100,000 units in 1993 to more than 400,000 units in 1996. Today's new-generation Ram trucks build on that foundation by offering pickups designed to do tough jobs — with some of the best performance on the market — all with a surprising amount of comfort.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

1500 TRX



This is the final year for Ram's powerful, 702-horsepower truck featuring a 6.2-liter V-8 engine, eight-speed automatic transmission and four-wheel drive system.

HEAVY DUTY



The Ram Heavy Duty line can tow up to 37,090 pounds and carry a payload up to 7,680 pounds. It also gets a "tailgate ajar" warning lamp this year.

PROMASTER



The Promaster work van gets new safety features for 2024, including ParkSense with the ability to stop, plus a white noise backup alarm and normal backup alarm.

Subaru



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Standard AWD vehicles, boxer engines and Vehicle Dynamics Control make Subaru reputed for excellent traction and handling.

HISTORY: Subaru, founded on July 7, 1953, debuted vehicles in 1954. Initially, vehicles were made in Japan from the conglomerate Fuji Heavy Industries.

FAMOUS MODELS: Impreza, Legacy and Forester.

KNOWN FOR: Competitively priced AWD vehicles and safety.

Affordable, Safe AWD Rides

Since its inception in the 1950s, Subaru has manufactured reliable, inexpensive vehicles. Most vehicles contain boxer engines, and some models have turbo-charged engines that enhance acceleration and speed. From 1995-97, the Impreza WRX and WRX STi, made Subaru known for its expert handling and speed when modified. Imprezas won the title World Rally Championship.

In a time of dual-family wage earners and economic decline, Subaru continues to



be an excellent choice for purchasers seeking handling, traction and fuel efficiency. The all-wheel-drive system helps Subaru vehicles hug the road and offers a quality ride at a reasonable price.

Modern Subaru models are sleek and attractive, combin-

ing styling with the reliability and price tags that promote customer loyalty. Safety continues to be a priority — historically the manufacturer has seen top ratings from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety — and Subaru continues to provide vehicles that protect its consumers.

Subaru vehicles are ideal for the casual or frequent driver. Increasingly, high-performance models like the WRX are giving this brand an exciting reputation to go along with its tradition of reliability.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

BRZ



Sitting on a Toyota GR86 frame, the BRZ coupe features a 2.4-liter, 228-horsepower, four-cylinder engine, six-speed manual transmission and rear-wheel drive.

IMPREZA



This small car is powered by one of two four-cylinder engines and all-wheel drive like all Subarus except the sporty BRZ, with a new look and new technology.

CROSTREK



Engine options are unchanged from 2023. Elsewhere, however, the Crosstrek crossover has undergone a complete redesign for its third generation.

Toyota



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: As the first major automotive manufacturer to mass-produce hybrid vehicles, Toyota is well known for its electric technology.

HISTORY: Toyota's first prototype, the A1, was unveiled in 1935. A decade later, the company had sold more than 100,000 cars.

FAMOUS MODELS: Camry, Corolla, 4Runner, Land Cruiser.

KNOWN FOR: Durability and reliability that aren't matched by other brands.

Ahead of the Curve



Since being founded in 1937, Toyota has stood apart from the crowd with its attention to detail and the quality of its craftsmanship. This Japanese automaker became a genuine brand to be reckoned with in the United States over the ensuing decades.

Its influence extends beyond the borders of the U.S., though. Toyota would become the top vehicle manufacturing company by volume. Initially, Toyota exclusively designed and produced compact cars. In fact, compact vehicles were Toyota's bread and butter for some time.

During the 1990s, demand increased for larger, roomier cars and Toyota responded in kind.

At the top of the list in terms of popularity were Toyota's SUV offerings, including the RAV4 and the 4Runner. As concerns about gas prices started to loom large in the 2000s, Toyota was once again on the cusp of

emerging trends and innovations.

The launch of its hybrid vehicle, the Prius, in 1997 proved once more that Toyota was keeping its finger firmly on the pulse of public opinion. The popularity of several of its smaller, more fuel-efficient cars — including the Corolla and the Yaris — also confirmed that the company was on the right track.

Going forward, Toyota continues to demonstrate a dedication to innovation in terms of a reduced reliance on oil. Hybrids, plug-in hybrids and plug-in cars are all part of its current lineup.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

LAND CRUISER



Turbocharged 2.4-liter four-cylinder hybrid powertrains are standard, delivering 326 horsepower. There's seating for five on two rows, with lots of infotainment tech.

SIENNA



The fourth-generation version is available exclusively with a 245-horsepower hybrid engine, and either all- or front-wheel drive. Its EPA-estimated mpg is 36.

CAMRY



Trucks and SUVs rule the market, but the Camry remains the best-selling sedan. In part, that's because the options range from 301-horsepower V-6 to a hybrid four-cylinder.

Volkswagen



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Highly efficient diesel engines have been a VW hallmark in recent years.

HISTORY: Volkswagen was initially formed in Germany by Ferdinand Porsche in 1937 to accommodate production of a new family car prototype.

FAMOUS MODELS: Beetle, Golf, Passat, Jetta, Rabbit.

KNOWN FOR: Safety, diesel engines, reliability and fuel economy.

Attainable German Cars

Volkswagen has been delivering affordable and reliable family vehicles to the average consumer since the 1930s. This German automaker began as a reasonably priced alternative to the Porsche brand.

Volkswagen has always enjoyed a reputation for safety and efficiency, but the 21st Century brand looks to lead the pack in fuel economy. Turbocharged Direct Injection engines deliver high-mileage performance. Volkswagen has proven responsive to the consumer demand for better motion at a reduced energy



cost.

For people who enjoy driving, one of the best aspects of Volkswagen's vehicles is their sense of fun from behind the steering wheel. They seem to have a cheerful, playful personality and are designed to make drivers smile with their

sporty handling.

The brand also has expanded into the SUV market with the Touareg and Tiguan. The sporty Volkswagen GTI has earned multiple Automobile of the Year awards from Automobile magazine.

Increasingly, Volkswagen is known for its European styling, including the sleek, Mercedes-like Arteon and the always-popular Jetta. With top safety ratings on numerous vehicles, innovative new prototypes and a bustling factory in Chattanooga, Tenn., Volkswagen has a bright future.

VEHICLES TO WATCH

ID.4



This all-electric SUV built in Chattanooga is about the same size as Volkswagen's gas-powered Tiguan. Updates for 2024 will increase estimated driving range.

GOLF R



Golf Rs come standard with a turbocharged 315-horsepower, 2.0-liter, four-cylinder engine. VW says 2024 will be the last with six-speed manual transmissions.

TAOS



Volkswagen's mini-SUV features a turbocharged 158-horsepower, 1.5-liter, four-cylinder engine, offering a pocket-sized combination of the Tiguan and the Golf.

Volvo



VEHICLES TO WATCH

XC40



An entry-level SUV, the XC40 offers a four-cylinder turbocharged engine with all-wheel drive, and lots of safety and driver-assistance technology.

V60



Two V60 station wagons will be available, the Cross Country with SUV-like styling, and the performance-oriented Polestar Engineered plug-in hybrid.

XC90



This second-generation mid-size luxury SUV is available ranging from 247 horsepower to 455 horsepower in its hybrid plug-in version. There won't be any big changes.

AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Volvo has long been a leader in safety innovation. Its cars today use a range of sensors and cameras to help keep their occupants protected.

HISTORY: Founded in 1927 by Gustaf Larsson and Assar Gabrielsson; purchased by Ford in 1999.

FAMOUS MODELS: C30, XC90, XC60.

KNOWN FOR: Solid design and the best safety technology in the world.

Total Focus On Safety

Latin for “I Roll,” Volvo has always been associated with diligent craftsmanship and sustainability. If you’re driving a Volvo, it’s difficult not to feel safe.

Severe Swedish weather prompted the company to engineer cars that would remain impenetrable to the cold. This weather restriction inadvertently started a legacy of solid durability and design. Volvo’s more recent moves toward using electric batteries to power certain models are extremely exciting for both the company and the larger electric battery movement.

Smaller outfits have created



pure electric vehicles, and other companies have launched successful hybrid lines, but Volvo was the first with such stature, class and refined engineering sense to seriously pursue creating a

mass-market electric vehicle. Volvo aims to preserve its trademark sensible yet roomy luxury in an electrically powered form.

In December 2009, Zhejiang Geely Holding Group, a Chinese company, reached an agreement to purchase Volvo from Ford. This expansion of Volvo into the Asian market increased the potential major impact that its fleet of vehicles could have on the world at large.

It’s safe to say that, no matter who owns Volvo, this brand will still leave its drivers with a feeling of safety for a long time to come.