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“The car is the closest thing we will ever create
to something that is alive.” —SIR WILLIAM LYONS



Contents

6 Engines of Change

8 Hypercars

Lamborghini Sesto Elemento	10
Ferrari Enzo	12
Koenigsegg Agera	14
Bugatti Chiron	16
Rimac Nevera	18
Pagani Zonda Roadster F	20
Aston Martin Vulcan	22
McLaren P1	23
Bugatti Veyron	24
Lykan Hypersport	24



26 Sports Cars & Supercars

Mercedes 300SL Gullwing	28
Chevrolet Corvette Stingray	30
Dodge Viper SRT	32
Shelby Cobra 427	34
Jaguar E-Type Series 3	36
Tesla Model S 60	38
Lucid Air	40
Porsche 550 Spyder	41
Honda NSX	42
Nissan GTR R34 Skyline	42



44 Rally & Street Racers

Lancia S4 Delta Rally	46
Ford RS200	48
Subaru Impreza WRX STI	50
Mazda MX-5 Miata	52
Audi Sport Quattro S1	54
TVR Sagaris	56
Honda Civic Type R	58
Ariel Atom 500	59
Cadillac CTS-V	60
BMW M3 GTR	60



62 Workhorses

Toyota Hilux	64
Ford F-150	66
GMC Sierra Denali	68
Rivian R1T	70
Dodge Ram TRX	72
Mercedes-Benz Unimog	74
Chevrolet 3100	76
Sherp ATV	77
Dodge Power Wagon	78
Chevy Silverado	78

80 Reliable Rides

Audi TT Coupe	82
Chevrolet Bel Air	84
Volkswagen Devon Camper	86
Jeep Grand Cherokee V-8	88
Toyota 4Runner	90
Austin Mini Cooper	92
Hudson Hornet	94
Duesenberg Model J	94
Subaru Outback	96
Hyundai Ioniq 5	96



Engines of Change

THE LONG, WINDING ROAD FROM HORSELESS CARRIAGES TO HYPERCARS



■ Karl Benz (left) was a German engineer whose 1885 invention is today identified as the first practical car; a Benz Velo car from 1894 (right).





■ The 1969 Camaro Z28 is a quintessential muscle car



■ A V6 engine boasts six different pistons attached to a crankshaft

■ The Ford Model T Convertible was popular in the 1920s.



When Karl Benz patented the world's first automobile, he probably couldn't have imagined that his 1885 invention—a 0.88-horsepower three-wheeler that maxed out at just 10 miles per hour—would evolve as it did. But many more firsts soon followed. Henry Ford revolutionized car production in 1908 with the Model T, making cars more affordable and accessible. The assembly line was introduced in 1913, allowing for more efficient production. By the 1920s, car ownership was surging.

During World War II, automakers shifted gears to producing military vehicles. But once the war ended, the car became an integral part of our culture—teenagers embraced driving as a symbol of freedom, while suburban families cherished their station wagons for everyday errands. The 1950s and 1960s saw the rise of cultural icons like the Chevrolet Bel Air, Ford Thunderbird, and Cadillac Eldorado, along with the boom of the NASCAR-inspired “muscle car” era. Meanwhile, European automakers introduced the sleek Jaguar E-Type, Porsche 911, and Ferrari 250 GTO, which became symbols of automotive luxury. It wasn't all about flash, though—as fuel efficiency became a priority in the 1970s, more compact models like the Volkswagen Beetle and Ford Falcon found fans, and Japanese automakers gained prominence in the American market with the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic.

Advancements in technology during the 1980s began to shape the landscape into what it is today, with major improvements in fuel efficiency, performance, and safety. The 1990s saw both SUVs and Japanese sports

cars become popular. Versatile sports utility vehicles like the Ford Explorer and Jeep Grand Cherokee captured the eye of families while, on the sleeker side of the spectrum, sportier rides like the Mazda MX-5 Miata and Toyota Supra gained devoted followings. There was—and continues to be—something for everyone, no matter their style.

And there's still plenty ahead. After gaining traction in the early 2000s with models like the Toyota Prius, hybrids and electric cars have made recent leaps thanks to new automakers such as Tesla, Lucid, and Rivian. Connectivity and safety continue to improve, hypercars are setting new benchmarks in performance, and a future of self-driving cars and alternative fuel sources seems closer than ever. Wherever the road takes us next, one thing's for sure: it's still an amazing ride. In these pages, join us in celebrating what our auto experts have deemed the 100 most iconic cars ever made, divided into five core categories, and look back on the cultural shifts they've inspired.

**Ladies and gentlemen,
start your engines!**

Hypercars

THE ULTIMATE BLEND OF PERFORMANCE, LUXURY,
AND ENGINEERING, WITH A SKY-HIGH PRICE TAG TO MATCH



■ The Lamborghini Aventador has a starting price of nearly \$500,000.

What puts the “hyper” in hypercars? “Where supercars top out, hypercars are just getting started,” *Forbes* puts it. Think 800+ horsepower, zero to 60mph in under three seconds, exotic materials, and cutting-edge lightweight and aerodynamic construction and design. And they’re just as impressive on the inside, with next-level luxury materials and tech that would make your smartphone blush. Even if you somehow have the \$2 million+ entry price to spare, it’s hard to get your hands on a hypercar—there are less than 6,000 registered in the world, according to J.D. Power. But hey, we can still admire from afar...and in the following pages. Blink and you might miss ‘em.



LAMBORGHINI

Sesto Elemento

A JAW-DROPPING CONCEPT CAR STANDOUT EVEN FOR STORIED LAMBORGHINI

TOP SPEED:
221 MPH

TOTAL MADE:
20

WEIGHT-TO-POWER RATIO:
3.85 LB/HP

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$2.9 MILLION



What's in a name? Plenty, when it comes to the Sesto Elemento. Translated from Italian as "sixth element," it's a nod to carbon fiber, the secret ingredient developed with Lamborghini ACSL (Advanced Composites Structures Laboratory) and the Boeing laboratories in Seattle that makes up most of the car's key com-

ponents. With its monocoque chassis and body panels all made from this magical material, it weighs only 2,202 pounds—lighter than most compact cars on the market. That lightweight design coupled with its 5.2-liter V10 engine allows the Sesto Elemento to rocket from zero to 60 mph in just 2.4 seconds. With sharp

angles and sweeping lines, it looks like it's going at breakneck speeds even while standing still.

The Lamborghini Sesto Elemento was first unveiled as a concept car at the 2010 Paris Motor Show. Only 20 models were ever built, and they each sold for 1.8 million Euros—the equivalent of \$2.9 million today. But



■ The Sesto Elemento has a bare-bones interior, with a single carbon fiber seat, to minimize weight and maximize speed.

don't expect one to fly by any time soon—none of the models were ever street-approved, though the car has made an appearance in games like EA's *Need for Speed: Hot Pursuit* and in the movie *Need For Speed*. As Lamborghini described it, the Sesto Elemento is "born for the sole purpose of generating indescribable driving emotions, but only on the track, far from the roads." Of course, there's always a chance you can get your hands on a "used" model—like the one famously listed on Craigslist in 2017 for a mere \$4.5 million.



Hypercars

■ Only existing owners of the Ferrari F40 or F50 were invited to purchase the limited edition Enzo.



FERRARI

Enzo

A RECORD-BREAKING STUNNER SHOWING OFF THE BEST OF FORMULA ONE TECHNOLOGY



TOP SPEED:
217MPH

TOTAL MADE:
400

ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$659,000



In 2002, the automotive world was forever changed by the arrival of an Italian stallion like no other—the Ferrari Enzo. Named after Enzo Ferrari himself, this car had big shoes to fill...and it succeeded. Designed by Japanese-born industrial designer Ken Okuyama at Pininfarina, the Enzo featured audacious aesthetics inspired by Formula One race cars. (Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher helped develop the tech side of the car.) With its striking appearance and distinctive doors that swing upwards and outwards, it's impossible for it not to garner attention wherever it goes. The Ferrari Enzo even had a starring role in the climax of the 2007 film *Redline*, and also made appearances in *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle* and music videos like Kanye West's "Diamonds from Sierra Leone."

Under the hood, this beast boasts a naturally aspirated 6.0-liter V12 engine producing 651 horsepower and 485 lb-ft of torque. Topping zero to 60 mph in just 3.14 seconds, this force of nature leaves its competitors in the dust (and stops on a dime—it was the first car ever with carbon ceramic disc brakes). In 2008, it was also the fastest production car around the famed Nürburgring track, logging an official time of seven minutes and 25 seconds. And it's broken records outside of the track too: When they were first sold in 2002, the super-powered car went for \$659,000; since then, it became the highest-selling Ferrari ever auctioned off when one was sold for an astonishing \$6.05 million in 2015. (Since then, a 1963 Ferrari 250 GTO broke that record and then some when it sold for a whopping \$70.2 million in 2018.)

The Icon: McLaren F1



A star ahead of its time, the McLaren F1 was born in the early '90s—and quickly became the hypercar that created the entire hypercar category.

Built for the road but a beast on the tracks, it left everything in its wake with a top speed of 240.1 mph. This record-smashing number crowned the F1 as the fastest production car in the world (until 2005 when it was surpassed by the Bugatti Veyron). Not only did it hold the record for over a decade as many competitors came and went, but it also won the prestigious 24 Hours of Le Mans race in 1995, cementing its place in motorsports history.

With a unique three-seat layout that put the driver center stage in front, along with sleek and curvaceous body lines, the McLaren's beauty has plenty of fans worldwide. One of the lucky few to be able to admire it in person is Jay Leno, who often features his prized possession on his show "Jay Leno's Garage." With a total of 106 units ever produced, this rare gem has become an automotive collector's dream.

TOP SPEED:
240 MPH

TOTAL MADE:
106

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$800,000



TOP SPEED:
277MPH

TOTAL MADE:
30, INCLUDING
THE AGERA, THE R,
AND THE S

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$1.5 MILLION



■ A trademark of the Koenigsegg Agera S is its heavy scissor (technically “dihedral synchro-helix actuation”) doors.

KOENIGSEGG

Agera

TOP GEAR'S 2010 HYPERCAR OF THE YEAR



The vision behind this Swedish masterpiece? None other than Christian von Koenigsegg himself, who aimed to create a more compact yet powerful hypercar. Born in 2011 as the successor to the CCX/CCXR models, the Koenigsegg Agera's name is a Swedish word meaning to take action or perform. And perform it did!

Powered by a twin-turbocharged V8 engine producing an impressive 960 hp, the Agera can reach hair-raising speeds. Its upgraded variant—the Agera RS—pushes out a heart-stopping 1,160 hp and set a world record for the fastest production car at 277.9 mph in 2017. The Agera R also set new benchmarks for response times thanks to its carbon ceramic brakes, setting a new braking record by decelerating from 186.4 mph (300 km/h) to a complete stop in a devilish 6.66 seconds.

The Agera does more than go insanely fast; it looks fantastic doing it, too. With sleek aerodynamic contours that are clothed in carbon fiber and aluminum accents, this beauty exudes an air of raw power and futuristic elegance. Its scissor doors lend a dramatic touch even when parked, while the distinctive wraparound windshield offers the driver uninterrupted views as you tear through the landscape. And the Koenigsegg Agera hasn't just made waves with racers and car enthusiasts—it's also captured Hollywood's imagination. You may remember the Agera R's adrenaline-rush-inducing cameo in the 2014 film *Need for Speed*, and let's not forget about the list of celebrity owners who have splurged on their very own Ageras—including renowned boxer Floyd Mayweather and rapper The Game.



BUGATTI

Chiron

TAKING "LIFE IN THE FAST LANE" LITERALLY,
WITH THE RECORDS TO PROVE IT



TOP SPEED:
261MPH
TOTAL MADE:
500
ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$2.9 MILLION



■ Just the Chiron's tires alone cost between \$30,000 and \$42,000.



■ The Bugatti Chiron's carbon fiber body has to be built by hand.

Track Stars: The Hypercars You Can't Drive Home

Smooth curves that captivate your gaze, dazzling LED headlights that pierce through the darkness, and an exhaust growl powerful enough to send shivers down your spine. That's the Bugatti Chiron...and that's just the beginning.

On the outside, it's all about sleek lines and dramatic curves that manage to be both futuristic and classic at the same time. Inside, you'll find an equally luxurious cabin fashioned from hand-stitched leather and brushed metal accents. But the Bugatti Chiron doesn't just look gorgeous; it houses a monstrous 8.0-liter W16 quad-turbo engine under its exquisite hood—we're talking 1,500 horsepower, capable of going from zero to 60 mph in just 2.3 seconds—an extraordinary feat for a street-legal vehicle.

The Chiron hasn't only pushed limits—it's set new bars. In 2019, with Formula 1 legend Andy Wallace behind the wheel, the Chiron became the first hypercar to smash through the mind-bending 300 mph barrier, setting a stunning world record of 304.773 mph and securing its place in automotive history. In 2017, it also set a world record by going from zero to 249 mph and back to zero in a breathtaking 42 seconds. The Chiron has also made its mark on pop culture. Ever since the Bugatti Chiron burst onto the scene in 2016, it's been gracing music videos, movie screens, the iconic *Grand Theft Auto* game series, and even the garages of celebrities like Cristiano Ronaldo and Post Malone. The car's popularity shows no signs of slowing down—in February 2023, Bugatti set a world auction record for a new car, selling the one-of-a-kind Bugatti Chiron Profilée for more than \$10 million at a Paris auction.



Ferrari FXX-K

This bold, aggressive machine, made from 2015-2017, reaches a staggering 1035 horsepower, making it a true force to be reckoned with on the racetrack—albeit not road-legal.



Koenigsegg Jesko

This car is pure adrenaline on wheels. With a revolutionary design, this supercar pushes the boundaries of speed and aerodynamics—the Absolut version topped 330 mph on the track.



Lamborghini Veneno

The Veneno was made to celebrate the automaker's 50th anniversary and was limited to 13 units—one for Lamborghini's museum, one for testing, and the rest sold before the car was even unveiled.



Porsche 917K

Sleek curving lines and impressive power under the hood made this 1969 Porsche not only a timeless icon on the racetrack, but also a stunning design masterpiece that still turns heads today.



Hennessey Venom GT

This combo of American muscle and British finesse took the title in 2014 as the fastest car in the world, with ultra-fast acceleration and a top speed nearing 270 mph.

RIMAC

Nevera

THE WORLD'S FASTEST ELECTRIC CAR

TOP SPEED:
258 MPH

TOTAL MADE:
150

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$2.1 MILLION



■ This beast recently set a world record for driving in reverse—at 170 mph.

To truly appreciate the Rimac Nevera, take a look inside and out; Rimac didn't hold back when it came to the car's exquisite design. With sleek lines and an assertive stance, the exterior boasts a carbon fiber body and doors that open upwards in a dramatic butterfly-wing style. The futuristic interior is no less impres-

sive, combining high-quality materials with cutting-edge technology. Alcantara fabric and carbon fiber can be found throughout the cabin while a three-screen intuitive user interface connects you to the world outside.

Named after a strong, surprise Mediterranean storm that raced across the sea off Croatia (where the

car is produced), the Nevera lives up to its moniker. With a whopping 1,914 horsepower and 2,340 Nm torque provided by its four electric motors, this hypercar flies from zero to 60 mph in just 1.74 seconds, making it one of the fastest production cars on Earth and the fastest electric car. In May 2023, it became the ultimate record-breaker, setting 23 records in a single day.



■ The Rimac Nevera's four electric motors turn out 1.4 megawatts.

If all this power sounds a little intimidating, Rimac has also developed the world's first AI (Artificial Intelligence) Driver Coach, which can offer detailed sound and visual instructions to assist drivers in refining their racing trajectories, optimizing their braking and acceleration moments, and enhancing their steering inputs as well. Of course, with only 150 units of this hypercar being made, most of us will have to settle for just admiring the Nevera as it flies by...probably on its way to setting yet another record.



PAGANI

Zonda Roadster F

WHERE POWER MEETS ELEGANCE

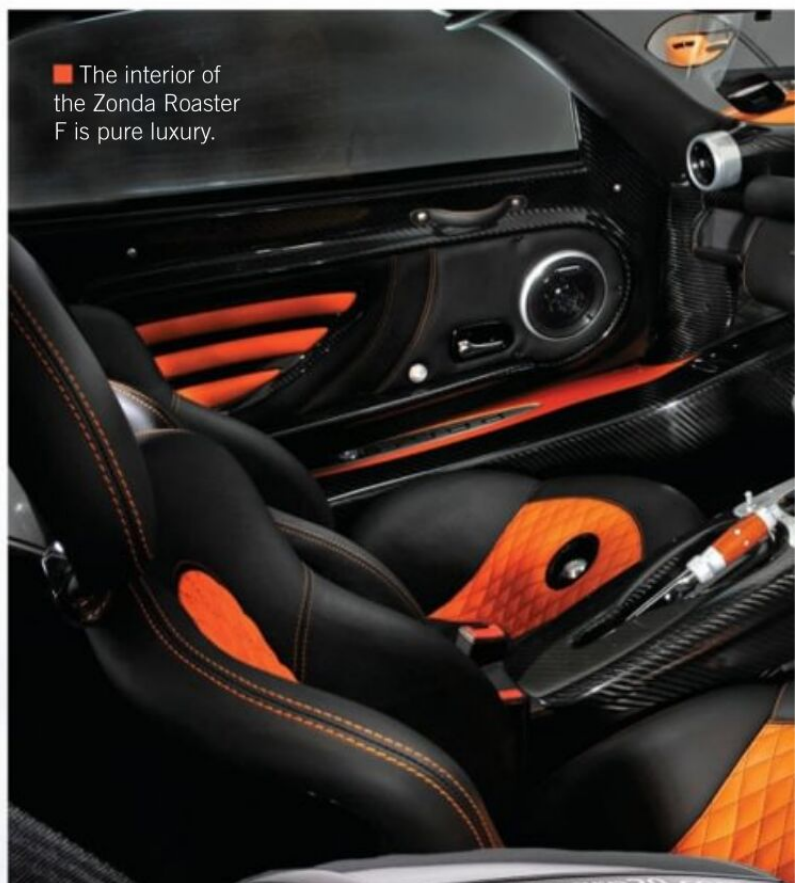
When the Pagani Zonda Roadster F debuted at the 2006 Geneva Motor Show, it was an instant hit. Back in 2007, picking up one of these bad boys would set you back about \$1.4 million, but plenty of buyers were eager to pay that, as all 25 units produced were swiftly snapped up—including one by Jay Leno.

Boasting a Mercedes-Benz AMG 7.3-liter V12 engine under its hood, this road-hugging beast can pump out a whopping 650 horsepower and 575 lb-ft of torque. And that's not all—it can sprint from zero to 60 mph in just 3.3 seconds, with a top speed of 214 mph. It was designed to make you feel like you were riding a rocket. In 2007, it held the lap record at the famous Nürburgring Nordschleife circuit in Germany, completing a lap in just seven minutes and 27.82 seconds.

Not only does this car perform like a dream, but it also looks like one too. With its intricate carbon fiber bodywork and titanium accents, the streamlined open-top silhouette is an unmistakable work of art. The eye-catching butterfly doors make even the process of entering and exiting an unforgettable experience, before cocooning you in luxury within a cabin decked out with bespoke leather upholstery. Over the past two decades, the Zonda Roadster F has left an indelible mark on automotive history, becoming its own iconic representation of the pinnacle of Italian hypercar design.

TOP SPEED:
214MPH
TOTAL MADE:
25
ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$1.4 MILLION

■ The interior of the Zonda Roadster F is pure luxury.



■ Pagani Zondas are allowed to be driven on U.S. roads—but they have a mileage cap of 2,500 miles.



Os-Car Nominees: The Best Hypercar Movie Performances



Koenigsegg Agera RS

In *Need for Speed*, the Agera RS (see pg. 14) exuded jaw-dropping design and unmatched power, leaving us all on the edge of our seats as it tore through the streets at breakneck speeds.



Audi R8

Tony Stark's grand entrance in this sleek, powerful machine not only defined his *Iron Man* character as a fan of cutting-edge tech and high luxury, but also enthralled Marvel (and car) fans worldwide.



Ford GT40

In *Ford vs Ferrari*, this American-born machine demonstrated grit, determination, and exceptional performance under extreme conditions in Carroll Shelby's battle against seemingly invincible Ferrari at Le Mans.



Lykan Hypersport

Demonstrating sheer power and agility, this masterpiece raced through the streets of Abu Dhabi and catapulted between two high-rise buildings in the *Fast & Furious* franchise's *Furious 7* with unforgettable style.



Chevrolet Lumina

Behind the wheel of this machine, Tom Cruise's character Cole Trickle in *Days of Thunder* roars down the track, defying gravity and laying the foundation for a long and storied history of racecars in movies.

Vulcan

AN EXTREME, TRACK-SHREDDING BEAST



TOP SPEED:
225MPH
TOTAL MADE:
24
ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$2.3 MILLION

■ The Vulcan is the first car to use an innovative canister oil system called Nexcel.

Named after a Roman god, the bar was set high for the Vulcan—and it delivered. The limited-edition track-only supercar was deemed Aston Martin's "craziest car ever" by The Verge, and it's easy to see why. The Vulcan boasts a top speed of 225mph thanks in part to its monstrous 7.0-liter V12 engine that cranks out an impressive 800 horsepower. All those ponies push the Vulcan from zero to 60 mph in just under three seconds...all while shooting actual flames out of its side-exit exhausts.

Clearly showing off its racecar DNA, it sports prominent front splitters and side skirts made from lightweight carbon fiber material. As to the Vulcan's inner beauty, its interior is nothing short of stunning,



■ The Vulcan's tail lights are actually made up of dozens of pop-cicle-shaped LED light protrusions.

featuring FIA-compliant racing seats swathed in suede-like Alcantara fabric while the dashboard is fitted with a high-tech color LCD that'll make you feel like you're flying an airplane.

The Vulcan's price tag of \$2.3 million is hefty, but it's found eager buyers—former MLB pitcher (and current racing team owner) C.J. Wilson snapped up one of just 24 models made.

MCLAREN

P1

THE FIRST HYBRID SUPERCAR IN THE WORLD

■ The P1 goes zero to 186mph (300 km/h) in just 16.5 seconds—5.5 seconds faster than its F1 ancestor, formerly the world's fastest car.

TOP SPEED:
217MPH
TOTAL MADE:
375
ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$1.3 MILLION



If driving the 2013 McLaren P1 feels more like piloting an airplane, that's not an accident. McLaren's inspiration was a mixture of Formula One racing and aircraft engineering, both of which shine through in its performance and style. The P1 flaunts a top speed of 217 mph and can go from zero to 60 mph in just 2.8 seconds thanks to its hybrid system that combines a twin-turbocharged V8 engine with an electric motor that churns out a whopping 903 horsepower. In September 2013, the P1 claimed its first speed record at the Nürburgring by lapping the circuit in less than seven minutes.

Wrapped in a carbon-fiber Mono-Cage shell that keeps the McLaren P1 incredibly lightweight without sacrificing safety or performance, with swooping lines and curves that are evocative of an alien spacecraft, it's hard to stop staring at the P1. In the cockpit-style interior, you'll find an intuitive yet minimalistic approach to design—no protruding buttons or distracting gadgets here.

And if there's ever a cherry to top this cake, it has to be the P1's Race Mode. With an instant torque boost and unique suspension leveling, you'll feel like you're behind the wheel of a Formula One car...just as McLaren intended.



■ The P1 has a smooth carbon fiber underfloor that boosts downforce for racetrack-level performance.

Hypercars

BUGATTI

Veyron

A RECORD-BREAKING CELEBRITY FAVORITE

It takes 12 radiators to cool the Veyron's powerful W16 engine.

TOP SPEED:
253MPH

TOTAL MADE:
450

ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$1.25 MILLION



LYKAN

Hypersport

A RARE GEM, ADORNED WITH LITERAL DIAMONDS

TOP SPEED:
245MPH

TOTAL MADE:
7

ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$3.4 MILLION



Each car has 440 diamonds that line the headlights.

Born in 2005 and named after Pierre Veyron, a French racing driver who won the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Bugatti Veyron was destined for greatness. Sporting an 8-L W16-cylinder engine with four turbochargers, the Veyron generated jaw-dropping power figures of 1,200 horses. Its acceleration? Warp speed—from zero to 60 mph in just 2.5 seconds, with a top speed of 253 mph. This record-breaking velocity crowned the Veyron as the fastest production car in the world in 2005. Not satisfied with one record, this legendary car later claimed another title: Bugatti created a limited-edition “Super Sport” version that pushed the top speed to an outrageous 258 mph.

It wouldn't be an illustrious luxury car without a few famous owners. Celebrities such as Tom Cruise, Cristiano Ronaldo, and Simon Cowell have driven this magnificent machine, and it continues gaining new fans every day.

Named after the Lykan, an advanced species of wolves in mythical legends with the power to transform into a beast, the Lykan lives up to its name. Under the hood of this mythologically-inspired marvel lies a twin-turbocharged 3.7-liter flat-six engine that boasts a jaw-dropping 750 horsepower and 708-pound feet of torque—allowing it to sprint from zero to 60 mph in just 2.8 seconds. Rev that engine, and you'll find it has an exhilarating top speed of 245 mph.

The exterior design is no less impressive. Futuristic and bold, it's highlighted by sharp angles and eye-catching scissor-style doors. To make it even more mesmerizing, the Lykan features diamond-encrusted LED headlights and gold-stitched leather interiors. Though it has lots of fans, only a lucky seven owners can call the Lykan theirs, making it one of the rarest cars in the world.

Car Chases That Made Cinema History



***The Italian Job* (1969)** set the bar high for all future chases, with iconic Mini Coopers racing through the streets and underground tunnels of Turin, Italy, ultimately making an exhilarating (and improbable) escape jump across a rooftop.



***The Road Warrior* (1981)** showcases Mad Max (Mel Gibson) hurtling across the Australian wasteland in his blower-enhanced V8 Interceptor, fending off attacks from murderous desert bandits while traveling at breakneck speeds.



***Death Proof* (2007)** has Stuntman Mike (Kurt Russell) driving a range of cars that are homages to classic movie chases—including this 1970 Chevy Nova, which has the same license plate (JJZ109) as Steve McQueen's Mustang Fastback in *Bullitt*.



***Fast Five* (2011)** ups the ante in its endless franchise with a breathtaking heist involving Dawson's 1970 Dodge Charger R/T and O'Connor's 2009 Nissan GT-R; the high-speed collisions and intense stunts make this chase scene unforgettable.



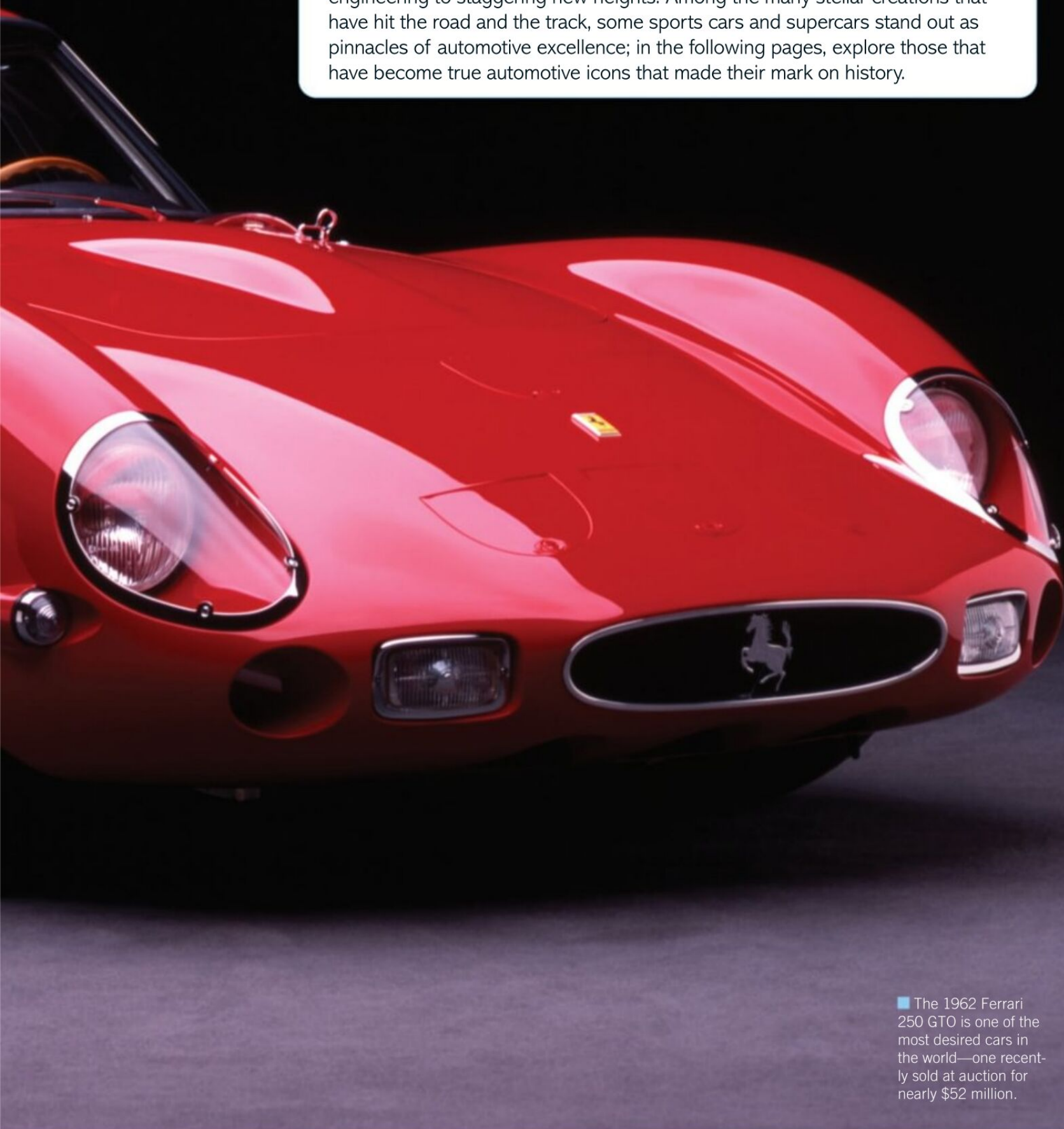
***Bullitt* (1968)** is credited with one of the greatest car chase scenes ever, with dramatic jumps, roaring engines, and Steve McQueen behind the wheel of a Ford Mustang GT390 as he chases hitmen in a Dodge Charger through the steep hills of San Francisco.



Sports Cars & Supercars

THE STUNNING SHOWSTOPPERS THAT DEFINED HIGH PERFORMANCE FOR GENERATIONS

Before there were hypercars, there were sports cars and supercars, continuously raising the bar on what was possible in the world of luxury automobiles. With their marriage of powerful engines, aggressive aesthetics, and cutting-edge driving technology, these high-performance machines have inspired generations of engineers and designers to take the concept of extreme automotive engineering to staggering new heights. Among the many stellar creations that have hit the road and the track, some sports cars and supercars stand out as pinnacles of automotive excellence; in the following pages, explore those that have become true automotive icons that made their mark on history.



■ The 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO is one of the most desired cars in the world—one recently sold at auction for nearly \$52 million.

MERCEDES

300SL Gullwing

THIS READY-TO-FLY CLASSIC WAS THE FASTEST PRODUCTION CAR OF ITS TIME.



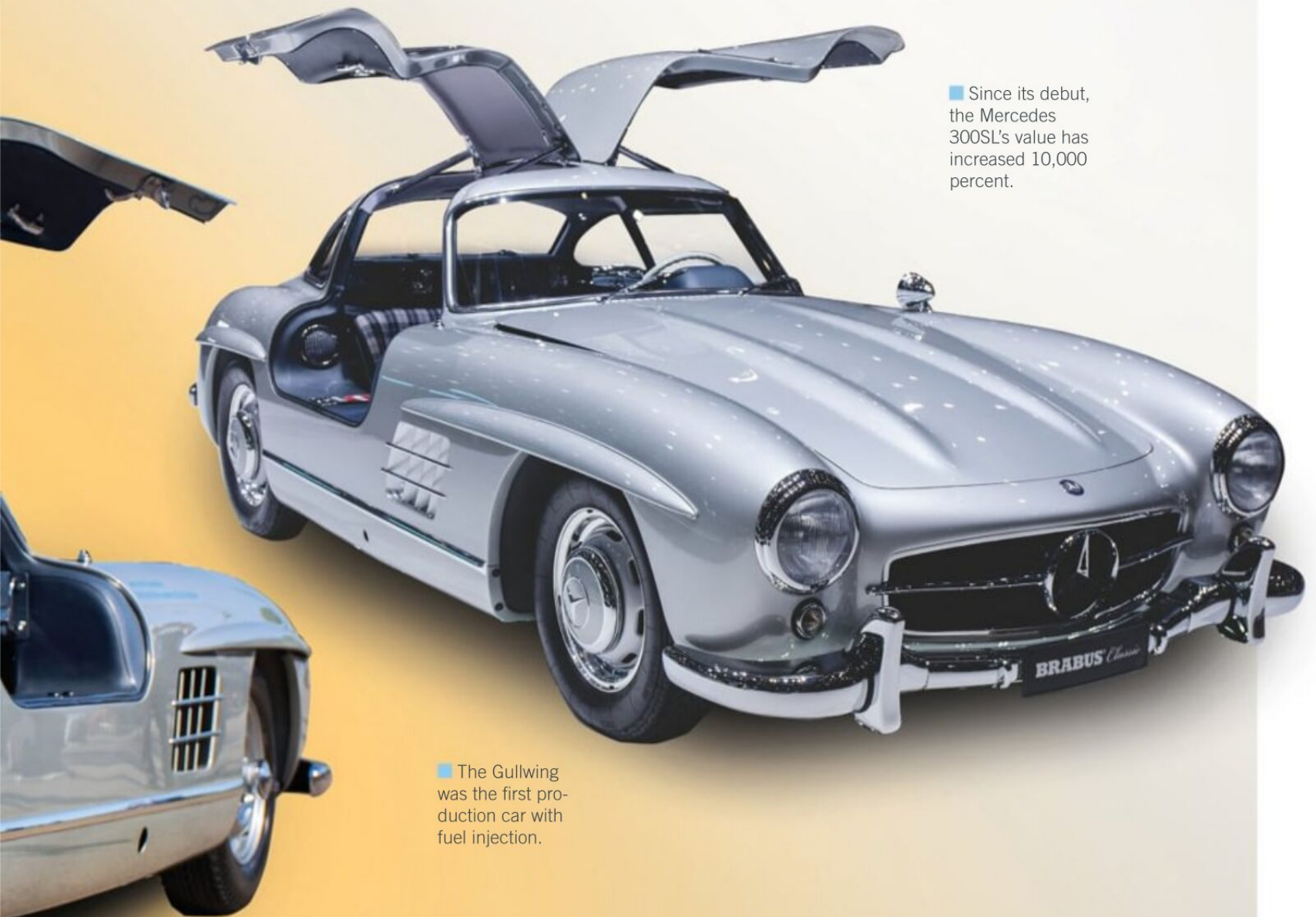
TOTAL MADE:
1,400
HORSEPOWER:
215
ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$6,820

Picture this: It's the 1950s, rock 'n' roll is booming, and people are craving automobiles that break the mold. Enter the 1957 Mercedes-Benz 300SL "Gullwing"—a sleek coupe featuring innovative doors that open upwards like a bird in flight. These doors earned the car its nickname and made it a showstopper everywhere it went, but it was

actually the car's performance that made the Gullwing a star both on and off the track.

Under the hood, the Gullwing has a 3.0-liter inline-six engine capable of pumping out an impressive 215 horsepower with a four-speed manual transmission. The engineering wizards at Mercedes made clever use of a multi-tubular spaceframe

chassis that reduced weight while maintaining structural rigidity—which was a rarity in those days. Hitting a top speed of around 131 mph (for the 1957 model), the Gullwing was the fastest production car ever at the time. It took home plenty of wins around the track, including the Carrera Panamericana, the Mille Miglia, and the Liège-Rome-Liège.



■ Since its debut, the Mercedes 300SL's value has increased 10,000 percent.

■ The Gullwing was the first production car with fuel injection.

Though the records it set have been surpassed in the decades since it was first unveiled and active, the 300 SL Gullwing coupe is still considered a bellwether of the collector-car market. The 1,400 units produced continue to be sought out today by eager car enthusiasts, regularly selling at auction for over \$1 million each.

■ A Gullwing out in front at the Freddie March Memorial Trophy race in 2015.



CHEVROLET

Corvette Stingray

A GROUNDBREAKING MODEL THAT RESURRECTED THE CORVETTE BRAND.

■ This car can travel from zero to 60 mph in just six seconds.



Corvette
STINGRAY

TOTAL MADE:
21,513

HORSEPOWER:
360 (MAX)

ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$4,252

The 1963 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray has held a special place in the hearts of American automotive enthusiasts since its debut. Introducing a new design language, advanced engineering features, and a focus on high-performance capabilities, it laid a foundation that can still be seen in Corvettes today.

One of the most distinctive design elements of the 1963 Stingray was

its split rear window. Due to visibility concerns, Chevrolet discontinued this design after just one year, making the split-window models sought after by collectors. The headlights also wowed drivers—when not in use, they're concealed behind a pair of sleek doors, giving the car a clean, streamlined front end.

It's not just its looks that made the car stand out, though. The 1963

Corvette Stingray was the first production Corvette to feature an independent rear suspension system for improved ride quality, handling, and overall performance. Under the hood, it's equipped with a powerful 327 cubic inch small-block V8 engine. This powerful heart allows the car to achieve a top speed of around 150 mph, while its fiberglass body makes the car faster and more agile.



■ The Stingray boasted distinctive hideaway headlights long before they became widespread.



Throughout the years, this timeless beauty has starred in classic car chase scenes in movies and had legendary names in the driver's seat—Elvis Presley, Bruce Springsteen, and John Travolta, just to name a few. Chevy produced 21,513 units, which didn't make the Stingray a rare car at the time, but it's in high demand today, easily commanding over \$100,000.

The Icon: Ferrari 250 GTO



The Ferrari 250 GTO is more than just a car—it's a legend. Its aerodynamic shape, crafted by renowned Italian design house Pininfarina, and details like the iconic front grille, have been turning heads since the day it debuted.

Underneath that stunning exterior lies a powerful V12 engine that delivers an exhilarating driving experience. With a top speed of around 174 mph, this beast can go from zero to 60 mph in 6.3 seconds, making it a true force to be reckoned with both on the road and on the track. Speaking of tracks, the 250 GTO dominated various motorsport events, including the famous Tour de France Automobile and the prestigious Le Mans endurance race.

Owning a 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO today is literally like owning a piece of automotive history. In fact, it's not uncommon for these rare gems to fetch prices in the tens of millions at auctions, making them some of the most valuable automobiles in existence.

TOP SPEED:
174 MPH

TOTAL MADE:
39

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$18,000



DODGE

Viper SRT

ONE OF THE MOST DISTINCTIVE SPORTS CARS EVER MADE

TOP SPEED:
206 MPH

TOTAL MADE:
32,000

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$55,000-90,000
(VARIES BASED ON
CUSTOMIZATION)

■ The Viper SRT had more than enough horsepower to beat Ferrari and Lamborghini on the racetrack.



■ At top speed, the Viper SRT ACR produced more downforce than any production car of its time.



Introduced back in 1991 at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, the Dodge Viper has always been synonymous with intense performance and eye-catching looks. But it was 2003's Dodge Viper SRT (Street and Racing Technology) that immediately made headlines with its aggressive looks and breathtaking performance. The Chrysler Group's SRT brand had five main hallmarks: awe-inspiring powertrains, outstanding ride handling and capability, benchmark braking, aggressive and functional exteriors, and race-inspired and high-performance interiors.

The Viper SRT, which replaced both the GTS and the RT/10, delivered on all counts. It was equipped with a more powerful

■ A Dodge Viper in the front of the race at the Brickyard Grand Prix in 2014

engine compared to the standard Viper models, and it featured an 8.4-liter V10 engine that produced 645 horsepower and 600 lb-ft of torque, making it one of the most powerful American production cars at the time. It also had performance enhancements to optimize its speed and handling capabilities, including a revised suspension system, larger brakes, and aerodynamic updates. The 2015 Viper SRT ACR took the already exceptional model to a whole new level with lightweight materials such as carbon fiber and aluminum alloy. This special construction allowed it to set several track records at world-renowned circuits, including Laguna Seca and Road Atlanta.

In 2017, Dodge sadly announced that the Viper would be discontinued due to low sales volume and the challenges of meeting increasingly stringent emissions regulations. The final Viper rolled off the assembly line on August 17, 2017, marking the end of an era for this iconic American sports car.



SHELBY

Cobra 427

AN ENDURANCE RACE STAR AND HOLLYWOOD FAVORITE

ZERO TO 60 MPH:
4.3 SECONDS

TOTAL MADE:
310

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$7,000



■ The Cobra's interior was beautiful but stark, with little space wasted on driver safety.

■ The Cobra could accelerate from zero to 100 mph and back to zero in just 14.5 seconds.



■ Despite its powerful engine, the Cobra 427 only weighs 2,282 pounds.





Born from the genius mind of car racer-turned-designer Carroll Shelby, the Cobra 427 made its debut at the New York International Auto Show in February 1965. This car rolled out with a limited production run, making the vehicle quite a rare gem. Sleek lines, bulging fenders, and a swooping profile create an unforgettable appearance that exudes pure muscle. Available in both street (S/C) and competition versions, the latter's lightweight aluminum body panels helped save weight for even more agility on the track.

Built for record-breaking performance, this beauty is powered by a Ford FE engine with an enormous 7.0L displacement, which produces an astounding 485 hp (or 550hp when tuned appropriately)! With this much power under the hood, it's no wonder the Cobra can roar with a top speed of over 165 mph. It boasted a quarter-mile run in 12.2 seconds—a milestone that was mind-blowing in the 1960s and still impressive by today's standards. The Cobra 427 achieved great success in motorsports, particularly in endurance racing, winning prestigious races like the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the Daytona Continental.

The Cobra not only broke records but also captured headlines. From appearing in movies like *The Gumball Rally* to television shows like *I Spy*, the car has left its mark on pop culture. This iconic vehicle also quickly became synonymous with the Hollywood elite, with celebrities such as George Harrison and Steve McQueen each owning one of these magnificent machines.

Muscle Cars:

Six Adrenaline-Pumping Rides



Dodge Challenger Demon

Introduced in 2018 as the ultimate version of the reincarnated Challenger, this spectacular menace boasts an astonishing 840 hp; the 2023 version was even stronger, with 1,025 hp that let it go from zero to 60 mph in just 1.66 seconds.



Ford Mustang GT Fastback

A true American classic, this Mustang's iconic design and powerful 302 cubic-inch V8 engine make it a favorite among collectors. Mustangs originally only came in coupes and convertibles; the Fastback's sloped rear roof didn't appear until 1965.



Pontiac Firebird 400

Marrying speed and style, this timeless ride made waves in the late '60s thanks to its sleek lines and powerful engine options, including a 400 cubic-inch V8—and door skins, front fenders and rear quarter panels that were lifted straight from the Camaro.



Plymouth Cuda

The Cuda was built to dominate the drag strip with its powerful Hemi V8 engine. Launched as a performance-oriented version of Plymouth's Barracuda in 1969, only 2,724 were made; a rare 1971 convertible recently sold at auction for \$3.5 million.



Pontiac GTO Judge

Implausibly named after a catchphrase from the hit TV variety show *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In* ("Here comes the judge"), Pontiac designed the GTO Judge to make a statement with bold colors, unique decals, and powerful engine options.



Chevrolet Camaro ZL1

This modern-day reinterpretation of the classic American muscle car features aggressive styling, advanced technology, and a supercharged V8 engine that delivers exhilarating power. The fastest Camaro ever made, the ZL1 boasts a top speed of 202.3 mph.

JAGUAR

E-Type Series 3

THE BELOVED E-TYPE GETS A POWERFUL NEW ENGINE AND A CONTROVERSIAL DESIGN UPDATE



TOP SPEED:
150 MPH

ENGINE:
5.3-LITER V12

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
6.4 SECONDS
(DEPENDENT ON
THE YEAR)

When it debuted at the Geneva Motor Show in March 1961, the Jaguar E-Type made a powerful statement. The introduction of the Series 3 in 1971 introduced a V12 engine, capable of topping 150 mph; compared to the inline-six engines in earlier E-Types, the performance and power boost were incredible.

But to accommodate the larger V12 engine, some design updates were necessary: a longer wheelbase, flared wheel arches to accommo-

date wider tires, and a larger grille opening for improved cooling. The updates to the E-Type's distinctive look drew a fair share of criticism, with some fans feeling like the lines of the Series 3 had lost its trademark elegance. The bumper was thicker and the headlights were chunky, compared to the Series 1 and 2, but more legroom and shoulder room made for a more comfortable ride. For many fans of the Series 3, the tradeoff was well worth it, albeit an

unexpected one. "Perhaps a little naively, all we expected to try was a new engine. What in fact we drove was a new car," Roger Bell wrote in 1971 for *Motor*. "Not a yawling, aggressive Ferrari-like machine with which, perhaps, most people associate a V-12 engine, but a very smooth, quiet and refined grand touring sports car." The Series 3 ruled the roads between 1961 and 1975; you can nab one for yourself today for a not-unreasonable \$70,000.



■ The highlight of the 1971 London Motor Show was the Jaguar E-Type Series 3 (left); its powerful V-12 engine is a work of art (right).

TESLA

Model S 60



A MORE ACCESSIBLE ENTRY POINT TO THE LUXE EV COLLECTION

■ Tesla's performance-boosting Ludicrous mode is a reference to the movie *Spaceballs*, when the heroes go past light speed to "ludicrous speed."

■ A third row jump seat (which faces backwards) is a \$3,000 add-on.



■ Charging up at one of Tesla's "Superchargers" is free for some models—and will get you an extra 170 miles for 30 minutes of charging time.

When *Motor Trend* named the Tesla Model S its car of the year in 2013, they called it "a testament not only to the luxury sedan and electric car segment, but to American engineering overall." It boasted more passenger and cargo room plus more power and range than the lauded Tesla 3. Back then, you could choose among three batteries: 40 kilowatt-hours (kWh), 60 kWh, and 85 kWh; but all

RANGE:
208-405 MILES
(DEPENDENT
ON THE YEAR)
ZERO TO
60 MPH:
3.1 SECONDS
ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$66,000

were eventually discontinued in favor of a 70 kWh battery. (In 2016, the 60 kWh made a comeback with room to grow, given that "60 kWh" really meant a 75 kWh battery pack that was software-limited to 60 kWh.) As a bonus, the revamped Model S 60 was even about \$4,000 cheaper than the one introduced in 2012.

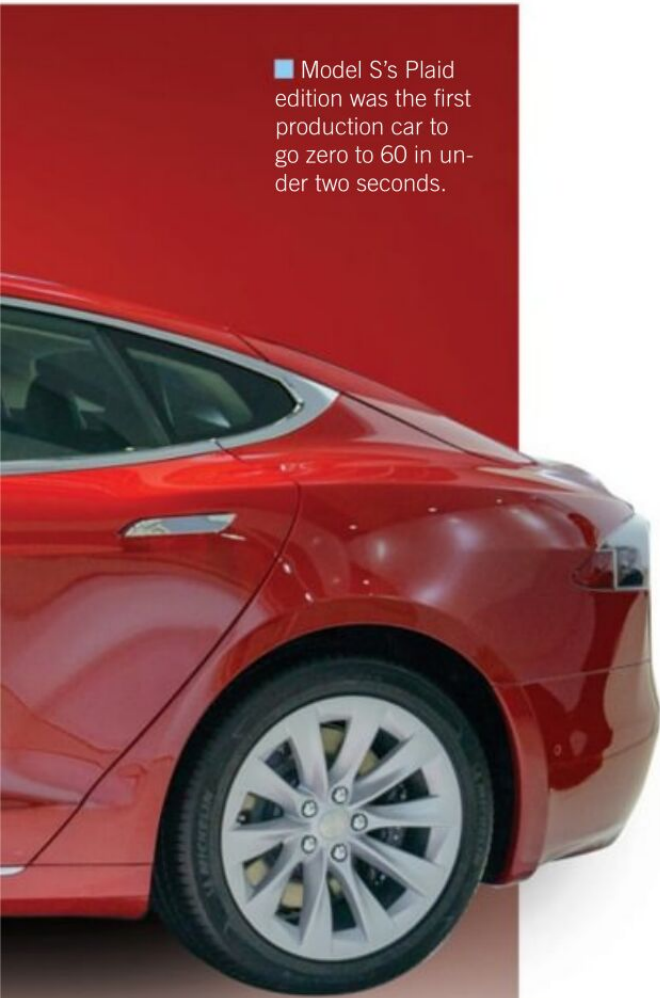
This more affordable entry point into the world of Tesla's luxury

electric sedans signaled a new era for electric vehicles—especially given that there wasn't that much compromise in performance for the lower price tag. Most of all, the Model S changed how we thought about electric cars, explains Jake Fisher, senior director of *Consumer Reports'* Auto Test Center. "EVs were no longer the vegetables you should eat—they became the dessert you desired."



Os-Car Nominees: The Best Sports Car Movie Performances

■ Model S's Plaid edition was the first production car to go zero to 60 in under two seconds.



DMC DeLorean

Despite poor engine performance, heavy stainless steel body panels, shoddy build quality, and corporate bankruptcy, the DeLorean became an iconic collectors' item the moment Marty McFly raced off in Doc Brown's time-traveling invention in *Back to the Future*.



Pontiac Firebird Trans-Am

Watching Burt Reynolds race against time to deliver cases of Coors beer across state lines in *Smokey and the Bandit* made for an unforgettable big screen appearance by this classic 1970s muscle car.



Dodge Charger

The iconic "General Lee" tore up dirt roads, took gravity-defying jumps, and always let the Duke boys outrun Sheriff Rosco P. Coltrane in *Dukes of Hazzard*. The stunts destroyed so many '69 Chargers that they ran out and had to switch to Challengers.



Aston Martin DB5

Driving this luxury icon in *Goldfinger*, complete with Q-added secret weapons such as machine guns, smokescreen dispensers and an ejection seat, Sean Connery's suave secret agent helped it become synonymous with 007 himself.



Modena GT Spyder California (pretending to be a Ferrari 250 GT California)

Don't worry, no *actual* Ferraris were harmed in the brutal crash scene of *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*—but the replica still turned heads as Ferris and his friends cruised through Chicago.

LUCID

Air



THE LONGEST-RANGE ELECTRIC VEHICLE YET

ZERO TO 60 MPH:
1.6 SECONDS
(SAPPHIRE EDITION)

STARTING PRICE:
\$77,400

RANGE:
520 MILES
(DREAM EDITION)

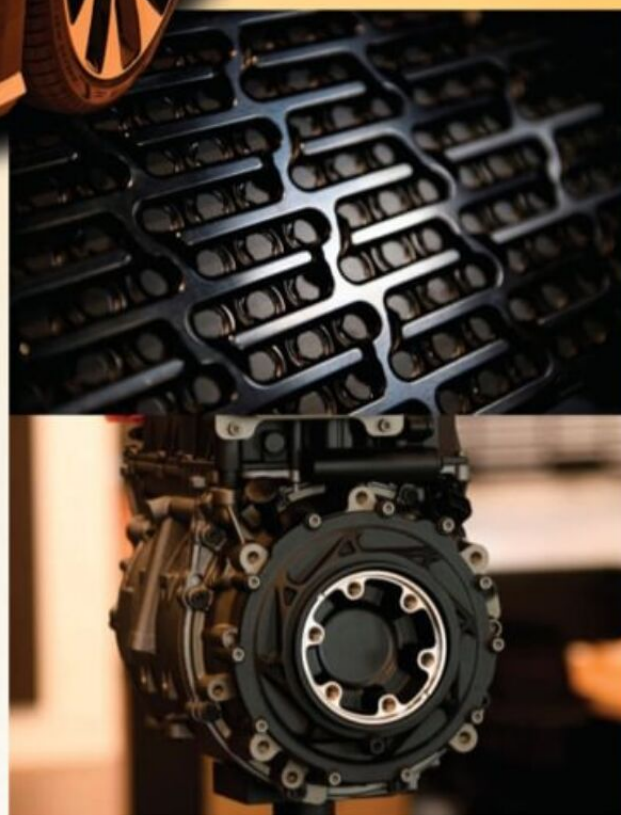


■ The charger for this car can also supply additional power in case of an outage.

The Lucid Air has rapidly been making a name for itself in both the supercar and electric car worlds since it debuted in 2021. Its electric powertrain delivers instant torque, propelling this beauty from zero to 60 mph in a mind-boggling 1.6 seconds. And it doesn't compromise on horsepower, getting up to 1,234 hp (depending on the model) and beating the Bugatti Chiron in a quarter-mile race. But its record-breaking range is what really put the Lucid Air on the map. Raising the bar for all

electric cars, the Dream edition can travel for 520 miles without needing to be recharged, beating out its competitors by about 100 miles. Plus, a quick 20 minutes on a 350-kilowatt charger will add 300 miles so you can get back on the road fast. "No electric has gone farther on a charge. And no E.V. has charged faster," explained auto writer Lawrence Ulrich in *The New York Times*.

■ The integrated power unit in the Lucid Air helps it deliver record-breaking range (right).



PORSCHE

550 Spyder

AN ENDURING SYMBOL OF PORSCHE'S RACING HERITAGE



■ This car is often thought of as the “original” Porsche racecar.

When it comes to iconic sports cars, few can match the timeless appeal of the Porsche 550 Spyder. Low-slung and deliciously curvy with vast wheel arches wrapped around thin-spoked wheels, this stunning beauty captured the hearts of enthusiasts from day one. Built for thrill-seekers, its rear-mounted engine delivers exhilarating performance, which served it well on the track—it won the first race it ever entered in May 1953, the Nürburgring Eifel Race, and regularly finished in the top three. Shortly before it wiped the floor with its competition during the 1956 Targa Florio race, the Spyder's most famous—and infamous—moment came on September 30, 1955, when Hollywood legend (and racer) James Dean met his tragic end in a head-on crash while driving his beloved “Little Bastard,” a nickname he gave to his 550 Spyder that he was preparing to race at Salinas, California.

TOTAL MADE:
90

TOP SPEED:
140 MPH

ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$6,000



■ The Spyder was designed by Erwin Komenda with a team of engineers from Porsche.



HONDA

NSX

JAPANESE ENGINEERING PROWESS MEETS EXOTIC CAR PERFORMANCE

ZERO TO 60 MPH:
5.9 SECONDS
(FIRST GEN)

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$60,000

TOTAL MADE:
18,000

■ This cockpit of the NSX was inspired by an F-16 fighter jet.



■ A 1995 Honda NSX Type R sold in August 2023 for \$632,000.

NISSAN

GTR R34 Skyline

A FAST AND FURIOUS STANDOUT IN THE GTR SERIES

TOP SPEED:
165 MPH
ZERO TO 60 MPH:
4.6 SECONDS

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$45,000



■ A common nickname for this car is "Godzilla."

When it debuted in 1990, the Honda NSX (sometimes branded in the U.S. market as a luxury Acura instead) shattered expectations with its mid-engine layout and lightweight construction—in fact, it was one of the first production cars to feature an all-aluminum body, which significantly reduced weight without compromising structural integrity. Its horsepower also put it ahead of its time. “Although 290 horsepower sounds piddling on a spec sheet today, it remains impressive that Honda was able to wring 290 hp out of a naturally aspirated V-6 when (for example) standard V-8 Corvettes had not yet climbed back up to 300 hp,” explains automotive writer Jeff Koch in *Hemmings Motor News*. Despite production ending in 2005, the legacy of this first-generation NSX continued to inspire and influence subsequent generations of sports cars, including the highly anticipated second-generation NSX that was introduced in 2016.

When the first GT Skyline was introduced in 1964, it marked the Nissan’s shift from sedan to race car. Though the R34 was the fifth generation in the long series, it’s often regarded as the pinnacle, thanks to its exceptional performance and iconic design. Introduced in 1999, the model impressed with its twin-turbo inline-6 engine that produced impressive horsepower, plus a shorter wheelbase and more streamlined body that helped it achieve better performance than its predecessors. It dominated on both the road and the racetrack, setting records and leaving competitors in its dust—and even made enough of an impression to appear in a starring role in *2 Fast 2 Furious*, pulling off an impressive bridge jump and winning a street race. Due mainly to its popularity in underground racing, GTRs sell on the secondary market for \$114,000 (for a base model) up to \$1.357 million (for the one Paul Walker drove in *Fast and Furious 4*).

Unleashing Power:

The Legacy of Carroll Shelby and Supercharged Sports Cars

Next time you hear the roar of a supercharged sports car engine, tip your hat to the trailblazing efforts of Carroll Shelby and his many followers.

Born on January 11, 1923, in Leesburg, Texas, Shelby’s journey to becoming an automotive icon began with his own racing career, competing in various motorsport events. Due to health issues, he had to retire from actual racing in 1960—but this setback didn’t dampen his love for speed.

In 1962, he founded Shelby American Inc. and really got to work. Shelby recognized the potential of supercharging as a means to extract even more power from engines. His supercharged Cobras became known for their thunderous roar and blistering acceleration—and inspired a legion of followers. They experimented with different engine configurations, tuning techniques, and supercharger setups to extract every ounce of power possible.

From road courses to drag strips, these supercharged sports cars left a trail of victories and shattered records in their wake, turning the Shelby name into a symbol of American muscle and engineering excellence.




■ Carroll Shelby at the 1965 24 Hours of Le Mans race (left)





■ Many rally cars are modified from street legal rides by removing non-essential items for weight, like backseats and door panels.



■ With the right attention to power and handling, almost any small car can be a rally racer—a point proven by these two Ford Escorts.

Rally & Street Racers

THE PINT-SIZED POWERHOUSES THAT FUEL OUR NEED FOR STREET SPEED

In the adrenaline-pumping world of rally and street racers, these cars are designed for vehicular ballet on real-world roads—the stuff that cinematic high-speed chases are made of. With stunning-yet-functional design, unrivaled horsepower, and relentless speed, the top street racers command attention with every twist and turn of the road. Rally racers, meanwhile, are built for tackling a range of terrain like gravel, mud, and snow—it's all part of the fun. With exceptional suspension and powerful engines, these off-road warriors dominate competitions like the World Rally Championship and the legendary Dakar Rally. Whatever your style, the racers here are ready to ride...and win. From ferocious rally beasts to slick street racing legends, the following pages feature standouts that have been leaving onlookers in a cloud of envy for decades.

LANCIA

S4 Delta Rally



AN INSTANT STAR, BUT WITH AN UNTIMELY END

HORSEPOWER:
550 HP

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
2.5 SECONDS...
ON GRAVEL

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$56,000
("STRADALE"
ROAD VERSION)



■ The Lancia S4 Delta Rally foregoes door handles in favor of barchetta-style pullstrings.

■ Perspex fixed side windows allow ventilation while keeping insects from splattering the driver's face.



■ The Delta Rally is the most successful model ever to compete in rally racing, with 10 championships for Lancia.



■ The Lancia weighs in at a paltry 1,962 pounds, thanks to extensive use of kevlar composites.

Italian automaker Lancia had already made a name for itself in the rally world with previous success stories such as the Stratos and 037 models. However, the Lancia S4 was designed to be even more dominant. This legendary car was introduced in 1985 by the Lancia Martini Racing Team to compete in the World Rally Championship (WRC). Instantly recognizable and boasting a mid-engine setup and four-wheel drive, the Delta S4 was a force to be reckoned with during its time. It competed in the

famous Group B class of WRC, which was known for insanely powerful and turbocharged cars.

The Lancia Delta S4 achieved immediate success with its debut in the 1985 RAC Rally, where it took *both* first and second place on the podium. Drivers were impressed by its superb handling and balance, attributed to its unique twin-charging system (turbocharger and supercharger), which provided even power delivery throughout the rev range. The Lancia S4 took home four victories during its time in Group B.

However, not everything was smooth sailing for this masterpiece. The car's peak came with a tragic incident during the 1986 Corsican rally when driver Henri Toivonen and co-driver Sergio Cresto lost their lives after their Delta S4 drove into a ravine and erupted into flames. The crash raised questions about safety standards within Group B cars, ultimately leading to stricter regulations and the eventual discontinuation of Group B's existence altogether, ending the S4 Delta project.

FORD

RS200

**A BRIEF RACING CAREER, A TRAGIC END,
AND A LASTING IMPRESSION**

Ford, already known for its involvement in rally racing, created this high-powered model in 1984 specifically to win Group B rally races. Its mid-engine layout and four-wheel drive system allowed for exceptional handling and acceleration capabilities that put it on par with its fiercest competitors. With a lightweight fiberglass body and an advanced turbocharged 1.8-liter engine producing 250 horsepower (which could be increased to around 450

HORSEPOWER:
250-450 HP

WEIGHT:
2,315 POUNDS

**ORIGINAL
PRICE:**
\$75,000

horsepower for race-spec versions), the RS200 quickly became a force to be reckoned with on the rally circuit. It was not just its stellar performance that set the Ford RS200 apart; its unique futuristic design captivated car enthusiasts worldwide. Boasting a low-profile, wedge-like shape, and large air scoops integrated into the bodywork, it truly looked like the car of tomorrow.

Although the RS200 didn't rack up as many wins as its esteemed Italian counterpart, the Lancia S4 Delta Rally (see page 46), it remains greatly admired—in fact, it set a new world record for accelerating from zero to 60 mph in just 3.07 seconds, establishing itself as one of the quickest and most aggressive cars of all time. Tragically, in 1986, the

RS200 was involved in what is often considered the worst accident in rally history, killing three spectators and injuring more than 30 during Rally Portugal. (Another crash at the 1986 Hessen-Rallye also killed a driver.)

These crashes led to the discontinuation of Group B rally racing all together, spelling uncertainty for the RS200's future. Efforts were made to convert some existing road-legal RS200 models into fully-fledged racing versions for other competitions, but these attempts failed to catch on. Despite its relatively short competitive lifespan, the Ford RS200 remains unforgettable in motorsports history. Although production was limited to roughly 200 units over just a couple of years, this rarity only adds to its allure within collector circles today.

■ The RS200 was only produced from 1984 to 1986.



The Icon:

Toyota MK IV Supra



■ The RS200 competing in the 1986 RAC rally



■ The RS200 was only able to race for Ford for one full rally racing season.

Road and Track calls the Supra MK IV “Toyota’s mic drop moment”—and for good reason. When it burst onto the scene in 1993, it stole car enthusiasts’ hearts faster than a quarter-mile drag race. What made this automotive icon such a hit back then (and still makes it stand out today) is a combination of stylish aesthetics, advanced technology, and sublime performance. It quickly gained a legion of die-hard fans who were hooked on the powerful twin-turbocharged 2JZ-GTE engine that could push out an impressive 321 hp. After-market tuners fell in love with the car’s potential for customization and quickly transformed it into a legend within car modification circles. The car gained superstar status when it appeared in *The Fast and the Furious*, driven by none other than Paul Walker, and the famous 2JZ engine is still considered one of the best powertrains ever built.

HORSEPOWER:
321 HP

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
4.9 SECONDS

70 TO ZERO
MPH
STOPPING
DISTANCE:
149 FEET



■ In 2021, a drag-racing Mark IV Supra (with an insane 2,100 hp) went zero to 194.77 mph in just 6.9 seconds.

SUBARU

Impreza WRX STI

A CROWD-PLEASER, EARNING ACCOLADES AMONG RACERS AND DAILY DRIVERS ALIKE

■ Over 7,000 of these cars were manufactured.



ZERO TO
60 MPH:
4.6 SECONDS

TOP SPEED:
155 MPH

ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$32,000

■ This Subaru won three manufacturer's championships in a row.



In the world of performance cars, few models have managed to cultivate a legacy as rich and fascinating as the 2004 Subaru Impreza WRX. Launched in late 2003 as a part of the Subaru Impreza's second generation (GD) models, the 2004 WRX quickly garnered attention for its performance-focused features. With a turbocharged 2.5 L 4-cylinder engine and torque-vectoring all-wheel drive, the WRX delivered exhilarating acceleration coupled with exceptional handling dynamics.

Critics lauded its high-speed stability, refined handling characteristics, and timeless design; drivers flocked to it for its practicality, with daily-

drivable utility that didn't come at the expense of true performance capabilities. The 2004 Subaru Impreza WRX rightfully earned comparisons to legendary rally cars, yet created a class of its own—one that combined affordability, everyday usability, and performance features unmatched by other vehicles in its price range.

The car quickly became a star, not just in street racing circles and car culture hotspots like Japan's Touge mountain passes, but on the big screen too. Thanks to its role in the hugely successful *Initial D* manga and anime series, which follows a young tofu delivery driver turned street racer, the WRX's popularity soared. While the brand-new WRX models you see on showroom floors may not have the same "wow" factor, the 2004 WRX earned the Impreza's place as a highly sought-after performance icon.

■ A Subaru Impreza during the Telstra Rally Australia in 2004



MAZDA

MX-5 Miata

ORIGINALLY INSPIRED BY BRITISH CLASSICS,
THIS ROADSTER KEEPS GETTING BETTER.



■ With its eye-catching red color, this car is easy for people to admire.

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
5.7 SECONDS

HORSEPOWER:
181 HP

STARTING
PRICE:
\$28,050

■ The original model weighed just over 2,000 pounds.

■ The Fiat 124 Spider is modeled after the Miata.

■ This car has a nearly perfect 50/50 weight distribution ratio.



■ The Miata features a front engine as well as rear-wheel drive; its interior is luxurious and sleek.



Inspired by classic British sports cars like the Lotus Elan and MGB Roadster, the Mazda Miata launched in 1989 at the Chicago Auto Show sporting the typical British sports car layout—rear-wheel drive, with its engine in front. Low weight distribution, near 50/50 balance, agile handling, and tactile feedback from every touchpoint are just some of the other thoughtful design decisions.

The focus on the driver-car connection in design is no surprise when you consider the guiding philosophy at the heart of every Mazda: *jinba ittai*. This Japanese phrase translates roughly to “horse and rider as one” and represents the special bond between the car and its driver. The phrase informs everything about how this roadster is engineered, resulting in a driving experience that is truly unparalleled.

The Miata is as beloved on the track as it is on everyday roads—Miatas have always been popular at grassroots events and the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) Autocross, pulling off impressive feats like shattering records at the 25 Hours of Thunderhill and conquering the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb. The MX-5 Miata actually holds the record as the most-raced vehicle globally. Notably, the Spec Miata category, governed by the SCCA, is gaining popularity at an unprecedented rate in the U.S., now boasting a fleet of over 4,000 cars.

Four generations in, the MX-5 has gradually added more power under the hood, updating its styling and incorporating tech and safety features, all while staying true to its light-design philosophy. What's next for Miata? Mazda calls its vision “Sustainable Zoom-Zoom 2030,” confirming to *Car and Driver* that the MX-5 Miata will live on and be part of Mazda's effort to electrify its entire lineup by 2030.

Drift Cars: Five Models With a Wild Side(slide)



Nissan 240sx

The 240sx's lightweight chassis, incredibly intuitive handling, and ease of customization made this Nissan street racer an instant hit on the specialized drifting scene back in 1990—popularity that it continues to garner with drivers today.



Mazda Rx7

When it debuted in 1978, the Mazda Rx7 was hailed as a revolutionary sports car providing unmatched power-to-weight balance and performance. It remains popular among drift enthusiasts today, even making an appearance in *The Fast and the Furious*.



Honda S2000

When it arrived in 1999, the S2000 turned heads with its F20C engine capable of a mind-blowing 9,000 RPM. That engine, plus its near-perfect weight distribution and nimble control, make it a track favorite even today.



Toyota AE86 Trueno

This compact car came into existence in the 1980s with a mission to revolutionize drifting. Lightweight and ultra-responsive, the Toyota AE86 Trueno immortalized itself in pop culture with a starring role in the anime series *Initial D*.



Nissan 350z

The 350z's debut in 2003 won over drivers with its balance and power; the sleek and stylish Nissan proved to be a top contender on the drifting scene as well as in racing games such as *Need for Speed: Underground 2* and *Forza Motorsport*.

AUDI

Sport Quattro S1

BORN TO DOMINATE THE 1980S RALLYING SCENE

HORSEPOWER:
450 HP
(ROAD
VERSION:
302 HP)

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
3.1 SECONDS

TOTAL MADE:
224



■ An Audi Sport Quattro competed in the GP Ice Race in February 2020 in Zell am See, Austria, driven by owner Stig Blomqvist.





■ This car won four championships in a span of five years.

■ In 1981, the Quattro started competing in international competitions.

When the Audi Sport Quattro S1 was introduced in 1985, Audi's all-wheel-drive system known as "Quattro" was already revolutionizing rally racing with its superior traction and control. However, Audi aimed for higher glory, bringing forth the racer as a fierce competitor for Group B rallying. Boasting a 2.1-liter turbocharged inline-five engine, this powerhouse tackles any terrain thrown its way. Its weight-saving kevlar body panels, advanced suspension system, and innovative aerodynamics further enhance its handling capabilities and serve as a perfect complement to the

innovative Quattro AWD system that provides unparalleled grip, allowing drivers to extract the most from the car's staggering power output. The design is no slouch either, blending purposeful race-ready features with a charismatic simplicity. Its short-wheelbase body and aggressive boxy lines are unmistakable trademarks of its era. The S1 also featured functional air intakes, a massive rear spoiler, and flared wheel arches, which not only contributed to its performance but also gave it an imposing and unforgettable presence on the rally stages.



■ Spiked tires helped the car travel safely during the GP Ice Race.



■ The differences between an Audi Quattro that's race-ready (bottom) and one that's road legal (left) are striking.



TVR

Sagaris

THE RARE, JAW-DROPPING “HERO ROAD-RACER” OF THE T350 SERIES

■ The Sagaris is sadly banned in the U.S. because it doesn't meet safety standards.



■ A Sagaris at the Goodwood Festival of Speed in 2013 featured the back window quote: “I may grow old but... I'll never grow up.”



■ The Sagaris was purpose-built for endurance racing, with a range of air vents, intake openings, and other ventilation features.

When British automaker TVR set out to create a car that would redefine performance, they knew they hit gold with the Sagaris; named after a lightweight ancient Greek battle-axe strong enough to puncture body armor, this beast lives up to its name. Launched at the 2004 Motor Show in Birmingham, UK, the Sagaris immediately got people talking—and gawking. “It’s been a long time since I’ve driven anything that turns heads

TOTAL MADE:
211
ZERO TO 60:
3.7 SECONDS
TOP SPEED:
185 MPH

like a TVR Sagaris. Any trip through town has jaws dropping,” a reviewer for automotive magazine *Evo* wrote back when it debuted.

Its appearance was indeed distinctive—curvaceous lines, aggressive air vents, and an eye-catching rear spoiler—but these visual enhancements also provided crucial aerodynamic benefits that improved its high-speed stability and cooling efficiency. Meanwhile, its lightweight

composite body helped to keep overall weight down while maintaining structural rigidity—essential factors in delivering a great race car. Emphasizing the Sagaris’ hardcore racing DNA, the uncompromising design also eliminated unnecessary luxuries like air conditioning, stereo system...oh, and airbags.

This approach paid off on the track. Powered by a 4.0L inline-six engine producing 380 brake



Os-Car Nominees: The Best Street Racer Movie Performances



horsepower (bhp), the Sagaris could blast off quickly and hit speeds that were impressive feats for a road-legal sports car, placing it in contention with some of the fastest cars of its era. The limited production run of just over 200 vehicles resulted in the 2005 Sagaris becoming an especially sought-after car among collectors. These days, if you're lucky enough to find one, it'll run you north of \$80,000.



Toyota Mark IV Supra
Driven by Paul Walker's character in the first *Fast and the Furious* movie, this Mark IV Supra took part in a series of thrilling races and stunts throughout the film, gaining an even bigger cult following among car enthusiasts.



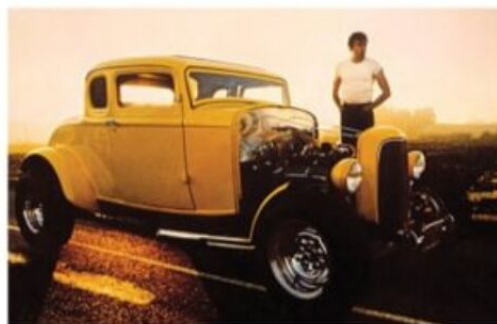
Subaru Impreza WRX
Ansel Elgort's character relied on this AWD powerhouse for his high-speed getaways in *Baby Driver*. The scenes showcased its impressive handling, with agility and precise cornering that made it ideal for the film's action-packed sequences.



Shelby GT500
In the 2000 film *Gone In 60 Seconds*, Nicholas Cage's character was on a mission to steal a list of cars—especially this classic '67 Mustang. Dubbed "Eleanor," the coveted car held its own in high-octane chases and last-minute escapes.



Ford Mustang Mach 1
Keanu Reeves' ultra-violent *John Wick* action series used a beautiful and powerful dark green 1969 Ford Mustang Mach 1 (a gift from his dead wife) to play up Wick's image as an unstoppable ex-hitman who is hell-bent on revenge.



Ford Coupe
American Graffiti transformed this 1932 Ford into a cultural icon. Driven by Paul Le Mat's character John Milner, the classic hot rod's style and performance made it an embodiment of the American street racing scene in the 1960s.

HONDA

Civic Type R

A SERIOUS RACER AND A COMFORTABLE DAILY DRIVER IN ONE

■ The race-friendly “R+” driving mode allows drivers to disable traction control for drifting.



■ The Civic Type R's powerplant is almost identical to the Accord's—but that refined turbo-charger goes a long way.



TOP SPEED:
170 MPH

HORSEPOWER:
306 HP

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
4.9 SECONDS

■ The cat-like stance of the Type R looks ready to pounce, and hugs the road better than racers five times its price.

The Honda Civic Type R has a long lineage tracing back to the first-generation model launched in 1997, but the 2019 model went far above and beyond its predecessors, both in terms of design and performance. Equipped with an almost impossibly powerful turbocharged 2.0-liter engine and attention-grabbing stylings like a large rear wing and flashy red seats and interior details, it's no wallflower. “The Type R is that rare type of car with terrific track ability and amicable road manners,” *Car and Driver* wrote in a review. “It sticks to the road like bionic Velcro, with steering telepathy that would embarrass Miss Cleo and a chassis seemingly tuned by a Formula 1 engineer.”

ARIEL

■ The Atom ditches the windows and outer frame for speed and racing prowess instead.

Atom 500

AN ULTRA-LIGHTWEIGHT BRITISH POWERHOUSE

TOP SPEED:
168 MPH

HORSEPOWER:
500 HP

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
2.3 SECONDS



■ An Ariel Atom 500 competed at the Goodwood Festival of Speed.

■ This car can zoom to 100 mph in just 5.4 seconds.



It may look like it can't leave the track, but the Ariel Atom 500 is surprisingly street legal. Weighing in at only about 1,200 pounds, the Atom 500 is all exoskeleton, with no roof or doors to weigh it down. The 500 is an even more powerful V8 version of the Ariel Atom, a British-designed high-performance sports car first introduced in 2000 that beat out the Porsche 911 Carrera S, Ford GT, BMW M5 and Caterham CSR 260 in acceleration testing. First designed as a student project and released in 2008, only 25 models were built, each priced over \$200,000.

Rally & Street Racers

CADILLAC

CTS-V

THE SUPERCHARGED LUXURY RACER THAT GOT BETTER WITH AGE

TOP SPEED:
208 MPH

HORSEPOWER:
640 HP

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
3.7 SECONDS

■ The CTS-V features magnetic ride control, which allows drivers to adjust the car's suspension in real-time.

■ Just over 1,700 Cadillac CTS-Vs were ever made.



BMW

M3 GTR

THE LE MANS CHAMPION THAT DETHRONED PORSCHE

TOP SPEED:
152 MPH

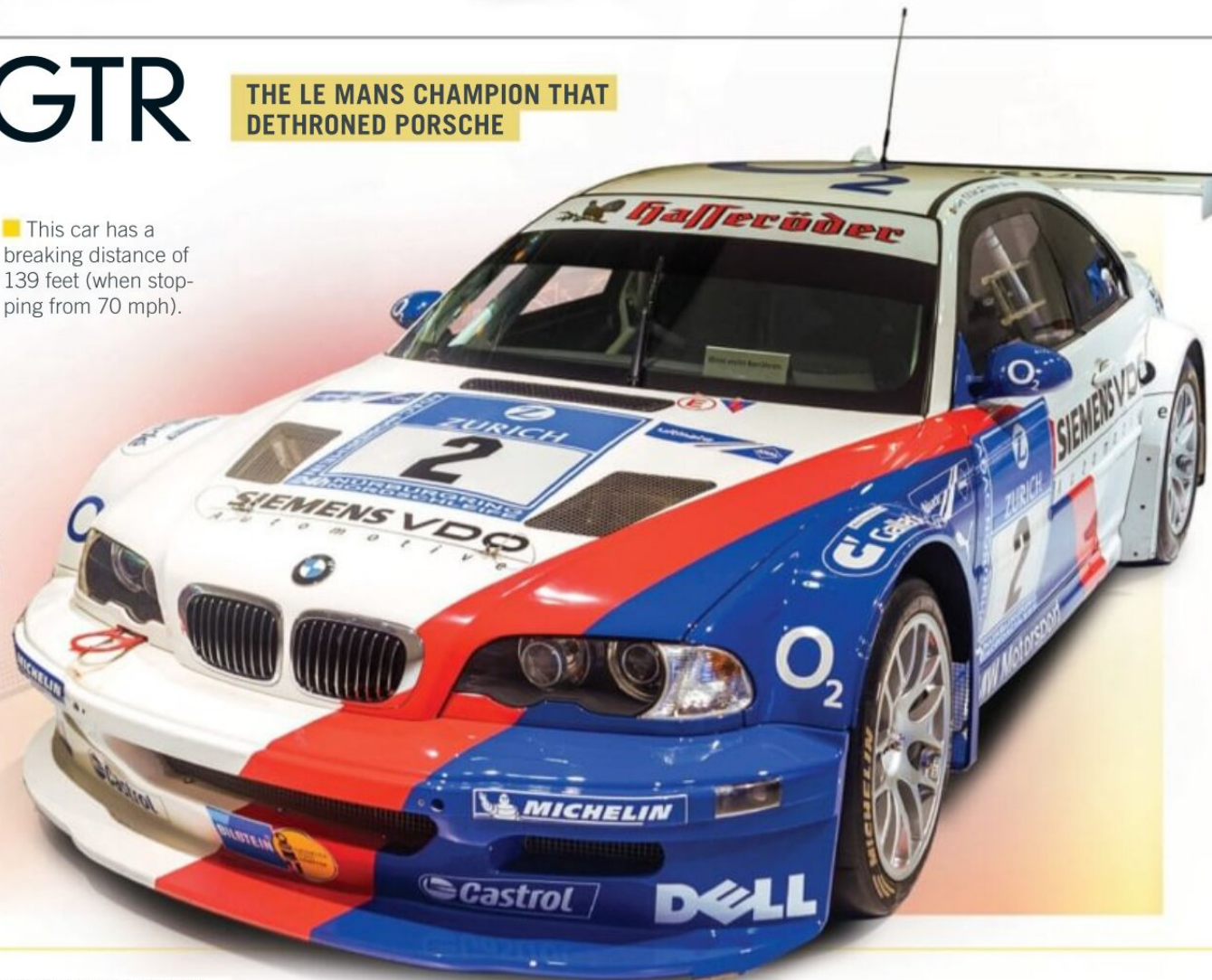
HORSEPOWER:
444 HP

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
3.4 SECONDS

■ This car has a breaking distance of 139 feet (when stopping from 70 mph).



■ The M3 GTR features an 32-valve, V-8 engine.



Introduced as a high-performance variant of the standard Cadillac CTS, the CTS-V model spanned three generations and three styles—sedan, wagon, and coupe—from 2004 to 2019, and seemed to get better every year. Its first generation showed itself to be a fierce competitor in the category, achieving a lap time of 8 minutes and 19 seconds on the renowned German Nürburgring Nordschleife race track, and holding its own against competitors like the Mercedes-Benz E55 AMG and the BMW M5. The second generation, with a 6.2-liter supercharged LSA V8, delivered an impressive 556 horsepower and put Cadillac squarely on the modern high-performance map for the first time. But the final generation of the CTS-V was its most powerful, with its supercharged V8 taking it from zero to 60 mph in under four seconds and redefining what the world expected from a luxury Cadillac.

Debuting in 2001, the M3 GTR was developed by BMW's famed M division as a direct response to Porsche's dominance in the American Le Mans Series (ALMS), so expectations were very high—but the BMW M3 GTR more than delivered. Basing the car on the E46 M3 platform, BMW added a unique and powerful V8 engine, detuned for racing purposes to meet ALMS regulations. Not only did it completely dominate in the ALMS series, winning seven of 10 races and finishing first and third in the ALMS championship, but it also went on to achieve back-to-back wins at the prestigious 24 Hours of Nürburgring races in 2004 and 2005. With robust acceleration and enhanced handling, the M3 GTR is still a force to be reckoned with on the track. Fun fact: The M3 GTR was never originally supposed to leave it, but an obscure ALMS rule stated that any model used for racing must also have at least 10 cars available for public sale.

The First Road Race: An Epic Battle Between Gas, Electric, and Steam-Powered Cars



Gas-powered engines lost the first race in 1901, but their superior power soon dominated electric cars (as with William Vanderbilt's winner in 1903, seen in the middle photo)—shifting public support entirely to gas cars for more than 100 years.

In the early days of the automobile, endurance races called Hill Climbs were all the rage, testing to see which engine was powerful enough to make it up a steep slope the fastest—if at all. The first U.S. race, the Eagle Rock Hill Climb, took place in 1901 in West Orange, NJ, with 13 competitors including Charles Duryea (inventor of the American gas-powered buggy) racing against an electric car built by Thomas Edison (whose labs were down the street)—but the winner was improbably a *steam*-powered car driven by W.J. Steward, who climbed the hill in three minutes while most cars died along the way. (This was the high-water mark for steam cars.) The race became a popular annual event—by 1903, thousands of spectators crowded the route to watch more than 3,000 drivers, including the world's richest man, William Vanderbilt, who set a record in his gas-powered 30hp Mors racer in one minute, 34 seconds. The next year he lost to rich-heir rival William Gould Brokaw (likely inspiration for Fitzgerald's *Great Gatsby*) by mere seconds—but the spectacle was over, as local officials realized racing up crowded town streets was a tragedy waiting to happen, and outlawed the race.

Workhorses



Workhorses

THE RUGGED MACHINES THAT WORK HARD AND PLAY HARD EVERY DAY



Originally launched in the 1960s, the new Ford Bronco updated its classic shape with modern lines and styling.

Let's be honest—most of us aren't driving to the supermarket in hypercars or drag-racing to brunch with our in-laws. So let's take a moment to appreciate these unsung heroes of the automotive industry. They may not be as sleek as our favorites sports cars or get the speed of the adrenaline-pumping rally racers, but workhorse vehicles like SUVs and pickups are the backbone of many people's daily routines and family adventures. With unparalleled practicality, these all-terrain conquerors have earned their place in our roundup of the best cars ever. Their ability to navigate rough terrain, haul heavy loads, and make our lives easier—one mile at a time—is plenty of reason to celebrate.

TOYOTA

Hilux

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE LEGEND



■ The name of this pickup is an improbable combination of “high” and “luxury.”

■ This 1988 Hilux is part of the fourth generation of Hiluxes.

HORSEPOWER:
82 HP
(1988 MODEL)

PAYLOAD:
3,307 POUNDS

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$2,640

The Toyota Hilux made its debut in 1968 as a compact pickup truck that was both affordable and reliable; the line has become known for its unbreakable reliability ever since. However, it wasn't until the introduction of the generation that launched in 1988 that the vehicle took the title of being one of the most iconic, indestructible trucks ever made.

Over the years, the Hilux underwent transformations in design and performance, with serious upgrades made on the 1988 model. With impressive features such as sturdy body-on-frame construction and 130 lb-ft of torque (a sizeable output at

the time), it's safe to say it's well-equipped for both work and off-road adventures. The 1988 Toyota Hilux can be powered by either a 2.4-liter or a 1.8-liter engine depending on the model. Equipped with rear-wheel drive or four-wheel drive, it offers a seamless shift between two motor settings depending on the terrain it faces. Furthermore, it features a solid front axle that grants drivers better control over rough terrain and added stability for off-road adventures.

Its chassis and frame were built to last. “They were like the Energizer Bunny of truck components—they just kept going and going and going,” explains a review for Cars and Horsepower. When *BBC's Top Gear* series put it to a series of truck-destroying tests—driving it down stairs, lighting it on fire, smashing it with a wrecking ball, burying it in a multi-story building being demolished, drowning it in the ocean for over 24 hours—it came roaring back to life after just an oil change, solidifying its place as a legend among pick-up trucks.



■ The 2007 Hilux Arctic Explorer is an even more rugged variation of the beloved truck.

■ The Hilux is built like a tank with a high-strength steel chassis and body.



FORD

F-150

THE ALL-AMERICAN HERO

HORSEPOWER:
UP TO 450 HP

PAYLOAD:
13,200
POUNDS

ORIGINAL
PRICE:
\$27,705



■ The F-150 has been a best-selling truck for decades; Ford sold more than a million F-series vehicles in 2018.

Combining power, style, and versatility with an engaging driving experience, the F-150 has been the best-selling truck in the U.S. for over four decades. But among all its versions, the 2018 Ford F-150 stands out as a modern titan. The thirteenth generation began in 2015 with significant advancements such as an aluminum body construction (reducing weight while maintaining durability) and the adoption of turbocharged EcoBoost engines.

Featuring a military-grade aluminum-alloy body and six engine options, the F-150 offers up to an impressive 450 horsepower. Fuel efficiency isn't sacrificed for power, either—some models can achieve an estimated EPA rating of 20 city/26 highway mpg. Additionally, when properly equipped, the F-150 can tow up to a staggering 13,200 pounds, leaving most competitors in the dust.

Ford made headlines when they experimented with the strength of



the F-150 frame by using a prototype engine to tow a 1.2 million-pound freight train over a distance of 1,000 feet. This impressive feat of strength showcased the capabilities of the F-150's military-grade, lightweight aluminum-alloy body. Additionally, the IIHS (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety) named the Ford F-150 a Top Safety Pick in 2018—proving that it's not just about power and capability, but a secure trip as well.

■ In a 2022 *Car and Driver* list of the quickest pickup trucks they've tested, nine of the 16 are F150s.



The Icon: Willys Jeep



In 1940, the U.S. military requested proposals for a lightweight four-wheel drive vehicle. It was Willys-Overland who ultimately won the contract, and their General Purpose vehicle (G.P. for short, which GIs shortened to Jeep) quickly became popular with soldiers for its ruggedness and versatility. Equipped with a 2.2-liter inline-four engine, a three-speed manual transmission, and a fuel capacity of 15 gallons, this compact powerhouse could tackle any terrain without batting an eye and traverse tight spaces with ease, all while carrying 1,200 pounds—a testament to its durability and solid construction. Its capabilities were put to the test when tens of thousands were parachuted into Europe during D-Day in June, 1944. These Jeeps were instrumental in navigating diverse terrain and transporting troops safely during the pivotal invasion. Despite more than seven decades of existence, many of these original Jeeps are still being used around the world, from military uses to civilian off-roading.

HORSEPOWER:
60 HP

TOP SPEED:
65 MPH

PAYLOAD:
1,200
POUNDS



GMC

Sierra Denali

PUTTING THE LUXURY IN LUXURY PICKUP


HORSEPOWER:
UP TO 420 HP

ENGINE:
5.3L V8 GAS
(STANDARD)

STARTING
PRICE:
\$65,800

■ The Denali offers more cargo bed volume than any of its competitors.





■ 2023 models have a “Super Cruise” function, which offers hands-free driving assistance.

■ The Denali’s chrome accents and aggressive stance make it stand out.

The 2023 GMC Sierra Denali is a remarkable amalgamation of luxury, cutting-edge technology, and impressive performance, putting it at the forefront of the pickup truck market. The GMC Sierra Denali’s lineage dates back to 1999 when General Motors Company introduced this deluxe variant as part of their Sierra lineup. Over the years, it has garnered a fair share of attention by setting new benchmarks in automotive luxury and performance for a pickup. The latest iteration exhibits the confidence, power, and elegance that GMC has carefully crafted for discerning truck enthusiasts.

The 2023 version comes with a powerful 5.3-liter V8 engine delivering an impressive 460 lb-ft of torque. It also boasts a towing capacity of up to 8,900 pounds, which is perfect for those weekend getaways with your boat or trailer. The adaptive ride control system ensures you get a smooth ride irrespective of the terrain, while the innovative MultiPro Tailgate adds versatility with six unique functions for easy use.

What further sets the Sierra Denali apart from other trucks is its lavish cabin amenities. Massive screens, 12-speaker Bose sound, sumptuous leather, and yes, 16-way power front seats with massager—you’ll want to stay put in the driver’s seat all day.

■ The interior of this vehicle is fitted with a touch screen that’s over a foot long.



RIVIAN

R1T

**A FULLY ELECTRIC TRUCK
READY FOR ANY ADVENTURE**

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
3.1 SECONDS
(QUAD MOTOR
AWD MODEL)

RANGE:
270-410
MILES

HORSEPOWER:
UP TO 835 HP

■ This vehicle features a “gear tunnel,” which allows for extra cargo space between the cab and bed.

■ An air compressor is on board—so you can always keep your tires plump on your off-road adventures.

■ The R1T also features a “frunk” (front trunk) for added storage space.



■ The R1T is offered in three types: Explore, Adventure, and Launch modes.



Drive through three feet of water. Traverse anything in All-Terrain mode. Climb up rocks at a 100% grade (that's a full 45-degree angle), then charge up in 20 minutes to drive another 140 miles. The Rivian R1T is more than just another electric pickup on the market—it promises to be a true game-changer in the automotive world.

Rivian Automotive was founded in 2009 with a mission to create an emission-free vehicle versatile enough for adventures, without compromising performance and comfort. Now, it seems that dream is finally being realized. As a fully electric, all-wheel-drive truck with a unique blend of performance, off-roading capabilities, and advanced technology, the R1T offers an estimated driving range of up to 400 miles on a single charge, thanks to its 180 kWh battery pack. It also has incredible acceleration and an impressive towing capacity of more than 7,700 pounds—plenty for hauling your cargo on those weekend getaways. With its quad-motor powertrain and adjustable air suspension system (which allows for up to 15 inches of ground clearance) you can easily conquer any terrain.

It already has the attention of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. In September 2019, Bezos announced that Rivian would supply 100,000 electric delivery vans for Amazon by 2030. Also, Rivian recently filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for an initial public offering, a mark of the company's rapid growth and burgeoning influence. A perfect fusion of eco-friendly technology and adventure-seeking spirit, the Rivian R1T marks a new era for both the electric vehicle industry and automotive adventure.

Shapeshifter SUVs:

Five Off-Roading, Gear-Hauling, Family-Friendly Cars



Ford Bronco

One of the first SUVs ever created, this classic combines solid off-road capabilities with a rugged yet beautifully refined design. In 1969, a racing-prepared Ford Bronco even won the Baja 1000—an impressive feat for an SUV.



Jeep Wrangler Rubicon

A hardcore off-roader since its introduction in 2003, the latest version boasts a ground clearance of 10.8 inches, an approach angle of 44 degrees, and a wading depth of 30 inches—making it almost unstoppable off the beaten path.



Toyota Land Cruiser 70

Known for dependable build quality and incredible off-road capabilities since its debut in 1984, this Land Cruiser is at ease in Australian outback expeditions or African safari tours as it is navigating your weekly grocery run.



Ford Bronco Raptor

The 2022 resurgence of the Bronco lineage comes with extreme off-road capabilities. The Raptor edition stands as the mightiest road-legal Bronco to date, and it is the first SUV in the world to draw inspiration from Ultra4 Racing.



Lexus GX

With body-on-frame construction and full-time four-wheel drive with low-range gearing, this Lexus has made appearances in the grueling Dakar Rally, proving that luxury can actually go hand in hand with rugged capability.

DODGE

Ram TRX

UNLEASHING A NEW MAJOR PLAYER IN THE TRUCK CATEGORY

HORSEPOWER:
702 HP

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
3.7 SECONDS

STARTING
PRICE:
\$85,885

■ Its high horse-
power makes the
Ram TRX the
most powerful
pickup truck ever
mass-produced.



■ This truck is
hefty—it weighs
over 6,000 lbs!



With a myriad of standout features and an impressive pedigree, the Ram TRX brings some serious excitement to the table for truck enthusiasts and off-road adventurers alike. Designed as a deliberate challenger to the Ford Raptor, the Ram TRX garnered major attention for its aggressive styling and high-performance specs. It took about four years for this concept to become a reality, but since the production model was finally announced in 2020, it's become clear that it was worth the wait.

First, let's take a look under the hood—where you'll find a supercharged 6.2-liter Hemi V8 engine

that churns out a mind-boggling 650 lb-ft of torque. The vehicle's off-road capabilities are not to be underestimated, either. With an incredible ground clearance of 11.8 inches, the TRX can tackle pretty much any tricky terrain you can throw at it with ease. The available Bilstein adaptive shocks further enhance its performance by adjusting to various terrain conditions in real time. Add the massive 35-inch tires, and you've got a truck ready for any outdoor adventure. Already making its mark among well-established models, the Ram TRX won the prestigious 2021 *MotorTrend* Truck of the Year award.



■ The TRX is the only Ram truck with paddle shifters—typically used for quick gear changes in sports cars.

MERCEDES-BENZ

Unimog

A POLYMATH ON TRACTOR WHEELS

HORSEPOWER:
300 HP

GROUND
CLEARANCE:
15 INCHES

STARTING
PRICE:
\$225,000
FOR A
BARE-BONES
SINGLE-CAB
VEHICLE



■ With a few added attachments, this vehicle can be turned into a train that actually runs on tracks.

Car and Driver calls it “the world’s most versatile and bad-ass truck.” *Top Gear* calls it “the four-wheeled lovechild of a Swiss Army knife and Thunderbird Two.” Just don’t miss out on calling it to lead your next way-off-the-beaten-path adventure.

Introduced in the early 1950s, the multi-purpose Unimog’s origins can be traced back to post-World War II Germany, when the need arose for a versatile agricultural machine

■ There’s a Unimog museum located in Gaggenau, Germany.

that could plow fields and efficiently move goods. This led to the birth of a Universal Motor Gerät, which took the first few letters of each word to create Unimog. Fast forward to today, and Unimog vehicles have found an essential role in a wide range of industries: from agriculture and forestry to construction, military missions, and even expeditions.

Unimogs are not just an oddity; these machines pack some impres-

sive numbers. For starters, they typically feature a powerful high-torque diesel engine. The approach and departure angles (how steep an incline they can tackle) are astounding at around 45 to 52 degrees. Their ground clearance of about 15 inches, paired with a unique portal axle design that allows for travel over even the roughest of terrain, makes the Unimog ready to dive into an off-road adventure whenever you are.



Os-Car Nominees: The Best Workhorse Movie Performances

■ Today's formula for creating the car is the same as it was in 1951; technology has advanced, but the design has stayed largely the same.



■ The top speed of this rough vehicle is just under 70 mph.

Don't just take it from us: In 2020, two Unimog trucks broke the world record for a vehicle traveling at a high altitude—21,962 feet, to be exact. The trucks were part of an (obviously) off-road expedition to the summit of the Ojos del Salado volcano in Chile to install emergency radios in high-altitude locations. It's no wonder that these vehicles remain the preferred choice for exploratory and scientific expeditions.



Cadillac Miller-Meteor
This modified 1959 hearse, affectionately known as the “Ecto-1,” was on the front lines of ghost-fighting action in *Ghostbusters*, carrying our heroes and their dangerous proton packs to every haunted hotspot in New York City.



Ford Econoline
A double feature! In the world of *Scooby Doo*, the 1978 “Mystery Machine” served as both transportation and a mobile lab for our sleuths. Meanwhile, in *Dumb and Dumber*, the 1984 “Shaggin’ Wagon” was a bedazzled mutt-grooming mobile.



Dodge Ram 2500 Club Cab SLT
In *Twister*, this rough-and-tumble '95 truck took Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt into the eye of the storm—speeding through devastating conditions as they chased after research data to improve storm warnings.



Ford Explorer
In *Jurassic Park*, this 1993 pickup roared alongside dinosaurs, transporting awe-struck visitors through the park's untamed wilderness... and served as a pulse-pounding escape vehicle when the grand experiment began to spiral.



GMC Vandura Van
As iconic as it gets when it comes to TV vehicles, this 1983 black-and-red van outfitted with custom high-tech features provided both reliable transportation and durable workspace for our fearless mercenaries on *The A-Team*.

CHEVROLET

3100

A HEAD-TURNING WORK TRUCK THAT MERGES FORM AND FUNCTION

HORSEPOWER:
123 HP

TOP SPEED:
80 MPH

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$1,419
(1954 MODEL)

Manufactured from 1947 to 1955, this classic half-ton truck was one of the best-selling pickups in the U.S. during its production run. Known fondly as the “Advance-Design” truck series, the vehicle offers spacious, comfortable cabins and impressive hauling capacity. Improvements were

made from model to model—for example, 1951 was the last year for the 80 mph speedometer, as it was replaced with a 90 mph one the next year. Today, the 1954 Chevrolet 3100 is a particularly sought-after vehicle and continues to turn heads decades after its production.



■ The matte black color is an atypical yet sleek option.

■ Chevrolet produced over a million cars (including the 3100) in 1954.



■ The 3100 in the name signifies its cargo capacity: 3100 for a 1/2 ton, 3600 for 3/4 ton, and 3800 for 1 ton.

SHERP

ATV

**TRULY PUTTING THE
"ALL" IN ALL-TERRAIN
VEHICLE**

TOP SPEED:
24.5 MPH ON LAND, 3.7 MPH ON WATER
(IN 1200 BASE AND PRO 1000 MODELS)

DIMENSIONS:
**112" H X 157" L X 99" W (BASE MODEL);
118" H X 157" L X 101" W (PRO MODEL)**

PASSENGER CAPACITY:
**9 INCLUDING DRIVER (BASE MODEL);
6 INCLUDING DRIVER (PRO MODEL)**

■ Each wheel also holds a 58-liter fuel tank, increasing the Sherp's fuel capacity by 232 liters.

■ The Sherp ATV Pro model starts at around \$115,000.

■ Kanye West made a dramatic appearance in a Sherp ATV during a 2022 Super Bowl commercial for McDonald's.

Calling its base model an amphibious all-terrain vehicle certainly set the bar high—but the Sherp ATV delivers, shifting easily from water to land without any preparation or special equipment. Operating in any conditions from hurricanes to blizzards, this off-road beast redefined all-terrain capabilities as the most versatile vehicle you can buy—a button inside the cab even lets you deflate or re-inflate the tires if necessary.

■ This vehicle can travel over any obstacles up to a meter (3 feet) high.



Workhorses

DODGE

Power Wagon

FROM WAR HORSE
TO WORKHORSE

HORSEPOWER:
94 HP

MAXIMUM
PAYLOAD:
3,000 POUNDS

ENGINE:
230-CUBIC-
INCH
FLATHEAD-SIX



■ The Power Wagon was the first mass-produced civilian 4x4—and the first to allow the driver to switch between 2- and 4-wheel drive

CHEVY

Silverado

CHEVY'S MOST ADVANCED
(AND VERSATILE) TRUCK YET

TOWING
CAPACITY:
UP TO 14,500
POUNDS

MAX HORSE-
POWER:
420 HP

STARTING
PRICE:
\$29,895



■ Towing is made easier with this vehicle, as it includes 15 different cameras.

As a post-WWII icon, the 1946 Dodge Power Wagon's name says it all: power. As the story goes, GIs returning home from war wrote to Dodge and asked, "Where can we get a truck like the ones we used in the war?" In response, Dodge built the Power Wagon, a classic four-wheel drive truck with a robust all-steel body mounted on a heavy-duty frame. It remains a go-to choice for rough jobs among GIs and civilians alike, with restored and modified versions of the original turning up for sale—and the occasional rusted-out old-timer still doing its daily duty.

■ If you're interested in purchasing a model from the '40s, it'll run you north of \$50,000.

A testament to the ongoing evolution of modern workhorse trucks, the 2020 Chevy Silverado boasts a more expansive wheelbase, a broader and higher profile, and increased cargo capacity, all while somehow also being as much as 450 pounds lighter than its predecessor. Additionally, it holds the title of being the most aerodynamic full-size pickup truck in Chevrolet's lineup. With seven different engine options available to choose from, there's something for everyone, whether you want the best fuel efficiency, incredible power under the hood, or a bit of both.

■ In 2004, the Chevy Silverado was ahead of its time, becoming the first truck to offer customers a hybrid option.

Building a Diamond Road out of Ice

This winter, roughly \$15 million will be spent building a road that's 250-370 miles long from Yellowknife in Canada's Northwest Territories further north to some of the world's most productive diamond mines. In spring, it will all disappear—because the road is made of ice. Known officially as the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road, for two months it's the longest ice highway in the world, with 85% of its length on frozen lakes and rivers (the other 15% is portages between lakes) so trucks can deliver heavy supplies 24/7 over a short two-month period to mines otherwise unreachable by land. (The intense freeze/thaw cycles of the tundra make regular road building impossible.)

First built in 1982, the road has evolved but the construction method is basically the same: Each December, when the ice is two feet thick, plows clear the snow (which insulates the ice, keeping it from freezing thick enough) from the route while water trucks spray extra layers and help construction crews build the land portages. Once the ice is 42 inches thick (measured with ground-penetrating radar), usually by the end of January, it's open for business. Crews keep plowing a route 160 feet wide to accommodate large loads headed in both directions—until it's strong enough to hold loads of 140,000 pounds of fuel, heavy equipment, or explosives for the mines. By April, the spring melt will shut the route down until next winter.

■ Experienced truck drivers can make more doing two months of ice road runs than they make the entire rest of the year.



Reliable Rides

THE TIME-TESTED TITANS THAT ARE BUILT TO LAST
AND NEVER LET YOU DOWN



These steadfast champs may not boast jaw-dropping speeds or award-winning aesthetics, but they possess something arguably more valuable: resilience. Each vehicle in this category has proven its worth over time, offering drivers unparalleled dependability and impressive longevity. These aren't just your average well-built cars; we're talking about safety-first yet fun-to-drive automobiles that can hit staggering mileage and survive adverse driving conditions—and require minimal maintenance along the way. They don't tend to get the limelight, so join us in shining a spotlight on some of the most reliable cars ever built and celebrate their steadfast engineering. After all, reliability never goes out of style.



■ A Subaru Forester is a great choice if you want a steady, dependable ride.

AUDI

TT Coupe

A DRIVER-FRIENDLY RIDE THAT TURNED HEADS

HORSEPOWER:
180-225 HP

ENGINE:
1.8-LITER

ORIGINAL PRICE:
\$31,750

■ The TT was the second production car to use a dual-clutch transmission.



■ The evolved TT RS offers a an extra cylinder with a turbo-charged 2.5-liter I-5, delivering up to 400 horsepower and shooting from 0-60 in 3.4 seconds.



■ The interior has optional thick leather baseball-stitched seats, giving it a handmade touch.

When it first debuted at the Paris Motor Show in 1998, the Audi TT Coupe immediately caught critics' attention for its distinctive sleek "Bauhaus" design as well as its innovative features. Marrying distinctive form and superlative function, Audi's bold design choices for the 1998 TT Coupe not only set it apart from everything else on the road, but also were essential to its outstanding performance. The turbocharged 1.8-liter engine, available in 180 or 225 horsepower configurations, made it one of the fastest in its class at the time—but it's the car's aerodynamic shape and rigid frame that allows it to glide so effortlessly. Additionally, although based on a front-wheel drive platform, in the TT drivers can utilize Audi's Quattro all-wheel-drive system for unparalleled grip and handling in a wide range of road conditions, instilling confidence in drivers everywhere.

The 1998 Audi TT Coupe's cabin is also particularly well-insulated from distractions including road noise and vibrations, which makes tackling long distances an enjoyable breeze. Add to that an ahead-of-its-time array of user-friendly features, and this Audi is genuinely a joy to drive.



CHEVROLET

Bel Air

ARGUABLY THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE CAR EVER—BUILT TO LAST



HORSEPOWER:
185-283 HP

ZERO TO
60 MPH:
7.7 SECONDS

TOTAL MADE:
1.5 MILLION
(FROM
1955-1957)

■ The powerful Bel Air's top speed was 128 miles per hour.

The 1957 Chevy Bel Air is striking—its unmistakable design is a confident mix of distinctive chrome trim, rocket-inspired tail fins, and a wide front grille. The unveiling was just an introduction—early on, drivers had the opportunity to select from a variety of aesthetic enhancements typically exclusive to luxury vehicles such as Cadillacs. Features like power brakes, steering, windows, and locks were all available. And the option to include air conditioning? Ahead of its time. They even offered preliminary versions of surround sound and automatic control for high-beam headlights. And most fun of all, the bevy of exterior finishes, includ-

ing two-tone color combinations that gave owners their pick from a plethora of style choices.

But underneath that striking appearance was a car designed with an emphasis on durability and performance. It came standard with a 235-cubic-inch six-cylinder engine, but the real star of the show was the optional 283-cubic-inch V8 engine, which allowed it to reach top speeds not previously seen in a family car. This formidable powerplant allowed owners to enjoy long road trips with ease and confidence. And it starred in trips around the track, too—the 1957 Chevrolet won 26 NASCAR convertible races (more than any

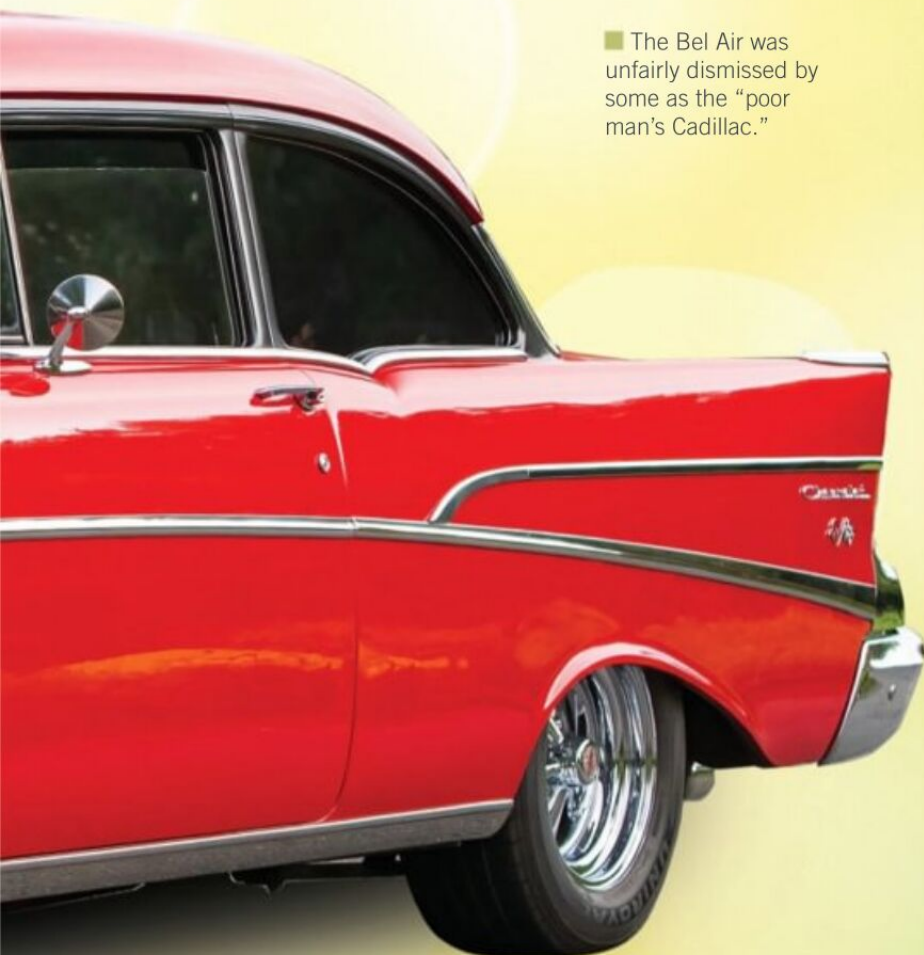


■ The second generation of this vehicle came with multiple engine options for customization.

other make), 49 Grand National NASCAR races (the highest number of wins in NASCAR history), and the Southern 500 three times (becoming the only car to do so.)

To this day, the Bel Air serves as an ideal example of what a trustworthy vehicle should look, feel, and perform like. *The New York Times* estimates that of the 1.5 million 1957 Bel Airs that were sold, up to 10 percent of them are still on the road. "But their values continue to rise despite their numbers," they write. "Kelley Blue Book reports that a pristine Bel Air convertible valued at \$82,600 is still going up nearly 30 percent a year."

■ The Bel Air was unfairly dismissed by some as the "poor man's Cadillac."



The Icon: Ford Model T



When Henry Ford started imagining an automobile for the masses in the early 1900s, cars were a hard-to-maintain luxury only the wealthy could afford. But Ford believed that everyday people needed a dependable means of transportation for their daily tasks—and after countless attempts, he made it. With an open-air design (windshield optional) and a heavy crank to hand-start the engine, the Model T that Ford debuted in 1908 doesn't sound like an easy drive by today's standards. Yet it was actually "sublimely and absurdly simple" by 1908 standards, wrote historian Philip Stern in his 1955 book, *Tin Lizzie*.

At \$850, the Model T cost a bit more than the average annual wage—but not for long. Ford's ingenious assembly line techniques drove the price down again and again. By the 1920s, it cost less than \$300, putting car ownership within reach for the average American for the first time ever. By the time production ended on the Model T in 1927, more than half of the registered automobiles in the world were Fords, and 15 million Model Ts had been sold. It was the end of an era—and the beginning of a new one.

HORSEPOWER:
20 HP

TOP SPEED:
42 MPH



VOLKSWAGEN

Devon Camper

DRIVING ADVENTURE AND FREEDOM AFTER WORLD WAR II

HORSEPOWER:
ABOUT 51 HP

SEATING
CAPACITY:
UP TO 5

TOTAL MADE:
OVER 13
MILLION
(INCLUDING
OTHER VW
VAN TYPES)

The Volkswagen Devon (or “T2”) Camper story began in post-World War II Germany. Volkswagen, tasked with creating an affordable means of transport, created the now-famous Type 2 platform, on which various camper configurations were built. One such configuration was the Devon conversion, made by British company Devon Conversions Ltd., which transformed ordinary vans into fully functional campers complete with beds and kitchen facilities. From its inception in 1950, the Type 2 rapidly became a popular choice for vacations and travel. Its impressive road presence, combined with its utilitarian functionality, ensured it could comfortably accommodate plenty of both passengers and cargo.

The 1963 Devon Camper introduced several improvements to this well-established model, with a new

suspension design for a smoother ride and a larger engine for greater power. Best of all, the camper was easy to maintain, even for those with minimal mechanical knowledge. The VW Devon Camper’s influence can be seen across many facets of popular culture, from memorable appearances in movies to the #vanlife trend. Its unique blend of reliability, design, and superior functionality has led to impressive sales figures over the years, with worldwide production across different VW van models estimated at over 13 million units.

To this day, there is a large cult following, as well as flourishing after-market and restoration industries, for the VW Devon Camper—not to mention rallies, where drivers and admirers gather by the hundreds to celebrate their love for the van and swap stories about their adventures.



■ The design for this van is credited to a Dutch Volkswagen importer named Ben Pon.

■ Comedian Gabriel Iglesias has a collection of VW camper vans valued at \$3 million.



■ This camper van is known for bright, bold colors and the iconic oversized VW on the front.

JEEP

Grand Cherokee V-8

RUGGED AND READY FOR ANYTHING

HORSEPOWER:
UP TO 357 HP

TOWING
CAPACITY:
7,200 POUNDS

UNITS SOLD:
**OVER 5
MILLION**
(ACROSS
ALL GRAND
CHEROKEES)

■ The Grand Cherokee was the first SUV (then a “trucklet”) to offer a 4-door option, making a more convenient family ride.



■ The Grand Cherokee's traditional 4.7-liter engine is known for its durability.



Five Cars That Can Drive Forever:

The Million Mile Club

At the 1992 Detroit Auto Show, Jeep debuted their Grand Cherokee by driving it up the steps of Detroit's Cobo Hall and through one of the building's plate glass windows, just to show how tough it was. Synonymous with reliability and performance since that bold introduction, the Jeep Grand Cherokee has become one of America's favorite SUVs. With an engine designed to handle any situation on or off-road, drivers commend the vehicle's exceptional durability. Owners report driving hundreds of thousands of miles without any major issues—remarkable for an SUV. This Jeep's unibody platform features solid front and rear axles, connected by several transfer cases, providing exceptional off-road handling. It was the first SUV to be offered with a driver's side airbag, and was an early pioneer of now-common tech like anti-lock brakes, power locks and windows, and cruise control. The 2023 Grand Cherokee boasts 100+ standard and optional safety features and earned the IIHS Top Safety Pick.

A testament to its reliability and industry respect, the Jeep Grand Cherokee has racked up numerous awards over the years; a notable example is when it won the 1999 North American Truck of the Year.

■ The Grand Cherokee Trackhawk edition gets 700 hp and 645 lb-ft of torque out of a 6.2-liter supercharged hemi V-8.



Volvo 240

With tank-like construction, the Volvo 240 is practically indestructible and is commended for its safety elements (including the first standard three-point seat belts and front and rear crumple zones). A 1979 model in Finland was last clocked at 1.63 million miles.



Honda Accord

The Accord was already known as a dependable daily driver with next-level build quality (rated 4.7/5 for reliability by *Kelley Blue Book*), when in 2023 a 2003 V-6 became the latest to hit the million-mile mark (technically its main odometer froze at 999,999 miles).



Volkswagen Beetle

Racking up over a million miles is a benchmark that has been reached by more than one Beetle, and the 1966 model exemplifies why. With a unibody construction that reduces the number of moving parts, the number of potential points of failure also drops.



Lexus LS400

This sedan is the epitome of luxury that lasts thanks to its meticulous build quality. A 1996 model was famously bought by auto journalist Matt Farah when it neared 900,000-mile mark, then loaned around to other journalists to help take it past the finish line.



Mercedes 240D

This model's robust construction and high-quality components ensure it can withstand the test of time. A Greek taxi driver drove a 1976 Mercedes 240D over 2,850,000 miles by 2004—when Mercedes gave him a brand new C class and put it in their museum.

TOYOTA

4Runner

A VERSATILE HALL-OF-FAMER THAT'S IMPRESSIVE BOTH OFF-ROAD AND IN-DRIVEWAY

HORSEPOWER:
270 HP

INTERIOR
CARGO SPACE:
89.7 CUBIC
FEET

MAXIMUM
TOWING
CAPACITY:
5,000 LBS

■ The 4Runner name (in Japan it was called the Hi-lux Surf) was coined from a contest run by Toyota's advertising division.





■ The Toyota 4Runner is currently celebrating its 40th birthday.



With a tried-and-true sturdy build, a winning reputation for off-road prowess and reliability, and a history of resilience in the face of countless challenges, it's clear why so many drivers hold this SUV in high esteem. Starting in 1984 as a compact SUV based on the Toyota Hilux pickup platform, the 4Runner provided consumers with an off-road capable vehicle that offered increased cargo space over its pickup counterpart. As time went on, Toyota listened to its customers' demands for increased comfort and refinement. By the time the third-generation model hit showrooms in 1996, the 4Runner had grown into a midsize SUV.

While earlier models were bred with raw performance in mind, modern iterations of the 4Runner prioritize both reliability and capability. Beneath the hood, you'll find Toyota's highly acclaimed engines that have

been proven to last through hundreds of thousands of miles with proper maintenance. The Toyota 4Runner hasn't earned its acclaim simply due to its robust design; this versatile SUV has consistently ranked high in J.D. Power reports for dependability and boasts winning accolades at major off-road events like Baja races.

The combination of reliability and performance has made the Toyota 4Runner an undisputed favorite among off-road enthusiasts who appreciate its rock-solid underpinnings and its excellent capabilities when tackling rough terrain. While some SUVs may look the part with their aggressive styling and impressive features, few can rise to the occasion like the 4Runner when it comes to taming the great outdoors. Several first-generation 4Runners still cruise highways today—a testament to their lasting value.



AUSTIN

Mini Cooper

A SMALL BUT MIGHTY ICON WITH VERSATILITY AND CHARM

HORSEPOWER:
55 HP

TOP SPEED:
88 MPH

WEIGHT:
1,334 POUNDS



■ In the early years, the Mini didn't even have a radio.

■ It's rumored that Alec Issigonis designed a storage space in the original door to hold a bottle of gin.

The 1963 Austin Mini Cooper truly is one of the most reliable and iconic cars in automotive history. From its humble beginnings in post-war Britain as a practical, fuel-efficient vehicle designed by Sir Alec Issigonis, this compact car quickly gained a reputation for being affordable, easy to maintain, and fun to drive.

Initially designed as a small family car called the Mini, it quickly became evident that there was sporting potential. John Cooper, a notable fig-

■ The Mini Cooper's distinctive design made it a coveted car in movies and TV shows.

ure in the British motorsports scene, recognized this potential and soon released the Mini Cooper, a high-performance version of the original model. The transversely mounted front-wheel-drive engine configuration provides ample space within its tiny frame and allows for groundbreaking handling capabilities; this unique design offered remarkable stability around corners and set a new standard for compact car performance. This collaboration between

Cooper and Issigonis resulted in numerous race wins, including winning the prestigious Monte Carlo Rally three times in the 1960s.

The Mini sold millions of units globally throughout its production run from 1959 to 2000. BMW took over production in 2001, staying true to the original vision while adding modern comforts and safety features. The legacy established by Issigonis' innovative design still informs today's car manufacturing trends.



Os-Car Performances: Five Dependable Icons With Star Power

Despite its small size, the Mini Cooper found success as a rally car in the 1960s.



Just before the turn of the century, the Mini earned second place for most influential car of the 20th century. (#1 was the Model T.)



Dodge Monaco

Perhaps as iconic as *The Blues Brothers* themselves, Jake and Elwood's car for their "mission from God" makes for an unconventional hero. With a powerful engine and agile handling, the former 1974 cop car makes the film's car chases unforgettable.



AMC Pacer

Affectionately known as "the Mirthmobile" in *Wayne's World*, this uniquely painted 1976 Pacer handles everything from long road trips to red rope licorice dispensers to impromptu group Bohemian Rhapsody sing-alongs.



Volkswagen Beetle Model 117

Sentient 117 Herbie makes the 1963 Beetle's reliability a key part of his natural charm in *The Love Bug*, whether he's winning a race against more powerful cars or helping out his human friends in need.



Ford LTD Country Squire

This 1976 Ford "Family Truckster" (modified to look awful) is the classic family road trip car in *Vacation*. Despite many mishaps, the sturdy station wagon reliably carries the Griswold family (minus Aunt Edna and her dog, tragically) to Wally World.



Plymouth Fury

The 1958 Plymouth Fury's dependability rises to a supernatural level in *Christine*. Thanks to being possessed by an evil spirit, it consistently rebuilds and restores itself to pristine condition, showcasing its durability in a most unusual way.

Reliable Rides

HUDSON

Hornet

GOING LOWER TO COME OUT ON TOP

HORSEPOWER:
145-170 HP

SEATING:
SIX, INCLUDING DRIVER

CURB WEIGHT:
AROUND
3,600 LBS



■ The models from 1951-1954 were equipped with an H-145 engine.

DUESENBERG

Model J

A 20-FOOT-LONG WORK OF ART

ENGINE:
6.9-LITER
STRAIGHT-8

HORSEPOWER:
320 HP

TOP SPEED:
119 MPH

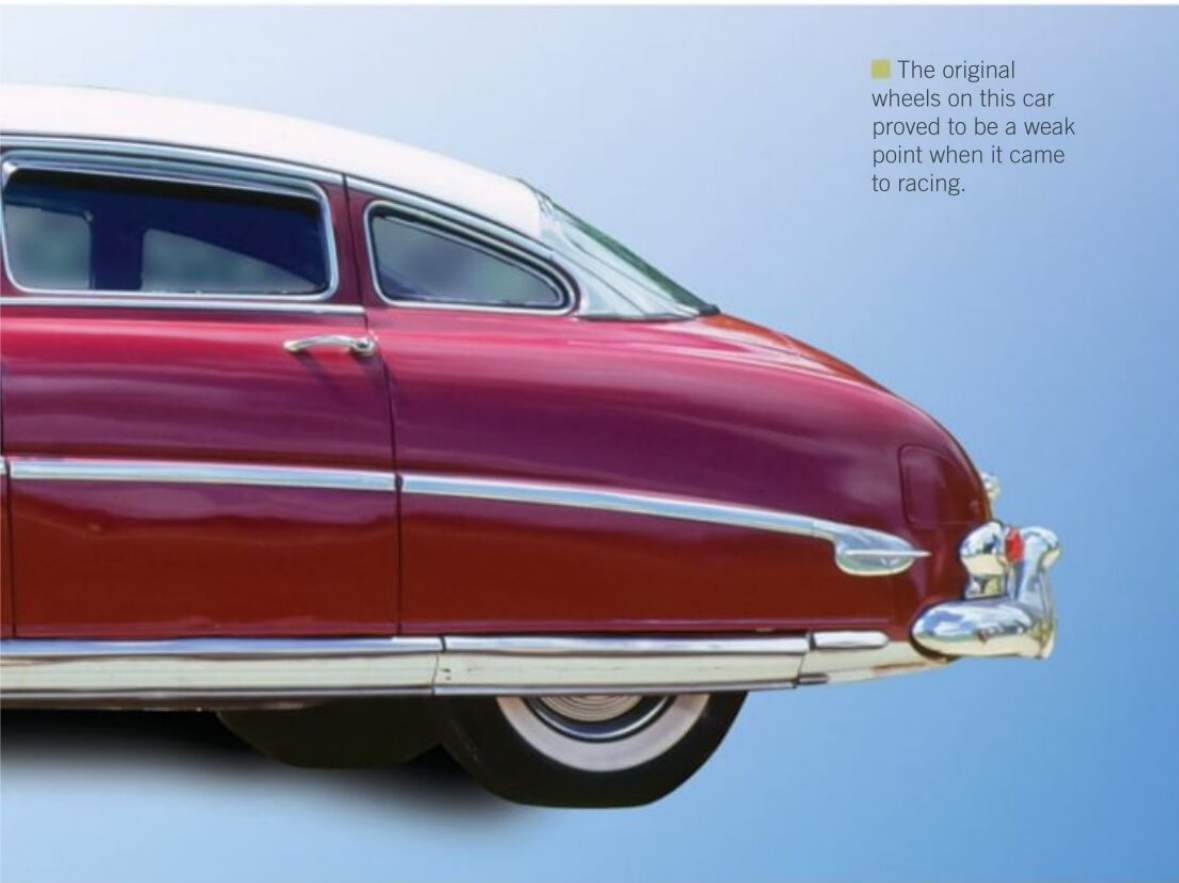


■ The Model J was the fastest and most expensive car in the world when it was built.



This iconic automobile represents the height of American pre-WWII luxury. Produced from 1928-1937, its combination of beautiful craftsmanship, top-of-the-line materials, and innovative engineering made it one of the most desirable cars of its time. Attesting to its reliability, despite its rarity, most of the surviving 378 Model Js are still in working condition

today. Its robust straight-eight engine was capable of producing up to 320 horsepower, an astonishing figure for the period, making the Model J both opulent and performance-oriented. The Duesenberg Model J was one of the most luxurious and powerful American cars of its time, with many celebrity owners including Clark Gable and Gary Cooper.



■ The original wheels on this car proved to be a weak point when it came to racing.

Produced from 1951 to 1957, the Hornet was a true game changer. As the first car built using a “step-down” design, the Hornet offered a lower center of gravity, contributing to its excellent handling and stability. It was also one of the first vehicles to use unibody construction, which made it lighter and more agile than its competitors. Its groundbreaking design allowed it to dominate stock car races, tallying up an impressive 40 wins during the 1952 season alone. The Hornet’s powerful Twin H Power engine further solidified its performance credentials, while its comfortable and spacious interior earned it high praise from both drivers and passengers alike. (And getting to be a character voiced by the legendary Paul Newman in his final role in the 2006 animated movie *Cars* only cemented its status as a timeless icon.)



■ The Model J featured a powerful eight-cylinder engine.

Reliable Rides

SUBARU

Outback

**BUILT FOR ADVENTURES
(AND PEACE OF MIND)**

HORSEPOWER:
UP TO 260 HP

TOWING
CAPACITY:
3,500 POUNDS

CURB WEIGHT:
**AROUND
3,634 LBS**
(BASE MODEL)

■ All wheel drive comes standard on all Subaru Outbacks.

■ A Subaru Outback was featured in *The Dark Knight Rises*.



HYUNDAI

Ioniq 5

**INNOVATIVE EV TECH IN A
RETRO-FUTURISTIC PACKAGE**

RANGE:
303 MILES

CHARGING
TIME:
**10% TO 80%
IN 18 MINUTES**

ENERGY
BACKUP:
**SOLAR ROOF
SYSTEM**



■ This car has a feature that allows you to change its sound to that of twin-engine fighter jet.

The Subaru Outback has long been synonymous with rugged reliability, making it a popular choice for those who enjoy venturing off the beaten path. First introduced in the mid-1990s as a beefed-up version of the Legacy wagon, it quickly gained its own enthusiastic following due to its ample ground clearance and tough construction. The Outback also has symmetrical all-wheel drive, making it ideal for outdoor enthusiasts and those who need better traction in adverse conditions. Over time, the model evolved to incorporate even more off-road capabilities with its fuel-efficient boxer engines, along with modern safety and technology features, all while preserving Subaru's core ideals of dependability and versatility, making it a popular choice for those looking for a reliable ride for weekend getaways, a safe snow commuter, and a family taxi.

In the brave new world of electric vehicles, the Hyundai Ioniq 5 is already garnering accolades for its blend of cutting-edge technology and stylish design. Offering hundreds of miles of range on a single charge thanks to two available battery options (58 kWh or 72.6 kWh), the Ioniq 5 offers ample real-world usability. The model is built on Hyundai's impressive Electric-Global Modular Platform (E-GMP), which delivers an efficient and powerful driving experience, and boasts ultra-fast charging capabilities that make the Ioniq 5 a top EV contender. (A high performance Ioniq 5 N version offers 601 hp and goes 0 to 60mph in 3.4 seconds.) A solar roof on certain models generates electricity, which not only helps extend the car's driving range, but can also even operate as a generator, supplying up to 3.6 kW of power to charge other EVs or power external devices.

The First Road Trip: Edison and Ford take the wheel

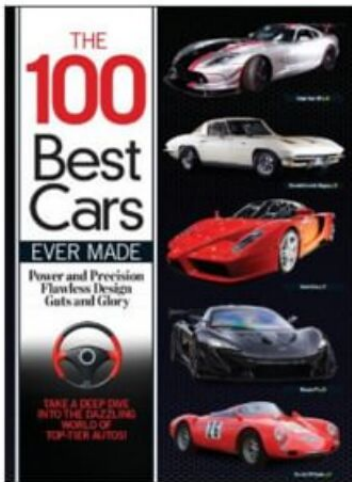


In 1914, when cars were still considered a luxury, inventor Thomas Edison and auto pioneer Henry Ford (along with buddies naturalist John Burroughs and tire magnate Harvey Firestone) made history as they took to the open road—or rather, the roadless countryside. When they set out in July 1914 in a convoy of modified Model T Fords, real road infrastructure was still a distant dream; the foursome navigated dirt wagon paths, ditches, and creek beds, facing punctured tires, vehicle breakdowns, and extreme weather. In an impressive display of fortitude, they completed the first summer road trip in style.

Their fame drew crowds wherever they stopped—and spectators were left inspired. The original 1914 trip was the first of many for the four over the course of the next decade, and countless other Americans followed suit, setting out on road trips of their own—a trend that helped pave the way for investments in infrastructure, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Federal Highway Act of 1956.

■ Henry Ford (brandishing a revolver) posing with his friend Thomas Edison





OUTSIDE AND INSIDE COVERS

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CONTENTS

4 (clockwise from top left) Rainier Ehrhardt/Getty Images; Heritage Images/Getty Images; Martyn Lucy/Getty Images **5** (left, top to bottom) Martyn Lucy/Getty Images; ANGELA WEISS/Getty Images; Eric Van Den Brulle/Getty Images; (center) John Keeble/Getty Images; (right, top to bottom) Heritage Images/Getty Images; marekulasz/Getty Images; Vitalij Sova/Getty Images

INTRODUCTION

6-7 (top, left to right) sierrarat/Getty Images; Eric Van Den Brulle/Getty Images; (bottom, left to right) Hulton Deutsch/Getty Images; Print Collector/Getty Images; Bet_Noire/Getty Images

HYPERCARS

8-9 Brandon Woynshnis/Getty Images **10-11** (clockwise from left) Francois Durand/Getty Images; Chesnot/Getty Images; ERIC PIERMONT/Getty Images **12-13** (clockwise from top left) Jun Sato/Getty Images; Heritage Images/Getty Images (2); MIGUEL MEDINA/Getty Images **14-15** (clockwise from left) Martyn Lucy/Getty Images; Chesnot/Getty Images; Martyn Lucy/Getty Images **16** (top to bottom) Heritage Images/

Getty Images; Sjoerd van der Wal/Getty Images (2) **17** (top to bottom) pagadesign/Getty Images; Martyn Lucy/Getty Images (2); Claudio Villa/Getty Images; John Keeble/Getty Images; Martyn Lucy/Getty Images **18-19** (clockwise from left) Sjoerd van der Wal/Getty Images; public domain/Unknown author - SVG-Daten aus via Wikimedia Commons/Getty Images; DAMIR SENCAR/Getty Images **20** (top to bottom) Heritage Images/Getty Images (2) **21** (top to bottom) pagadesign/Getty Images; ph: Melinda Sue Gordon/Walt Disney Pictures/courtesy Everett Collection; ©Paramount/courtesy Everett Collection; ph: Merrick Morton/TM & copyright ©Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp. All rights reserved/courtesy Everett Collection; Ollie Millington/Getty Images; ©Paramount Pictures/courtesy: Everett Collection **22-23** (left, top to bottom) TIMOTHY A. CLARY/Getty Images; Gerlach Delissen - Corbis/Getty Images; REBECCA NADEN/Getty Images; Chesnot/Getty Images; (middle, top to bottom) Martyn Lucy/Getty Images (2); (right) John Keeble/Getty Images **24-25** (left, top to bottom) Martyn Lucy/Getty Images; Ollie Millington/Getty Images; (right, top to bottom) courtesy Everett Collection (2); ©Weinstein Company LLC/courtesy Everett Collection; ph: Jaimie Trueblood/©Universal Pictures/courtesy Everett Collection; courtesy Everett Collection

SPORTS CARS AND SUPERCARS

26-27 Don Heiny/Getty Images **28-29** (clockwise from top left) Chesnot/Getty Images; Martyn Lucy/Getty Images (2); Michael Cole/Getty Images **30-31** (clockwise from bottom left) NoDerog/Getty Images; Different_Brian/Getty Images (2); Michael Cole/Getty Images; Marco Secchi/Getty Images **32-33** (left to right) Bill Pugliano/Getty Images; Will Schneekloth/Getty Images **34** (top, left to right) Matt Jelonek/Getty Images (2); (middle and bottom) Heritage Images/Getty Images (2) **35** (top to bottom) Raymond Boyd/Getty Images; Eagle2308/Getty Images; kenmo/Getty Images; Heritage Images/Getty Images; kenmo/Getty Images; Vitalij Sova/Getty Images **36-37** (top) Sue Thatcher/Getty Images; (bottom, left to right) Evening Standard/Getty Images; Granger Smith/Getty Images **38** (top to bottom) Win McNamee/Getty Images; Sjoerd van der Wal/Getty Images (2) **39** (top to bottom) pagadesign/Getty Images; ©MCA/Universal Pictures/courtesy Everett Collection; courtesy Everett Collection **40** (top to bottom) all photos PATRICK T. FALLON/Getty Images **41** (clockwise from top left) Dean Mouhtaropoulos/Getty Images; Bettmann/Getty Images; Dean Mouhtaropoulos/Getty Images; Heritage Images/Getty Images **42** (top to bottom) all photos Heritage Images/Getty Images **43** (top to bottom) Bernard Cahier/Getty Images (2); SvetlanaSF/Getty Images

RALLY & STREET RACERS

44-45 Brandon Woynshnis/Getty Images **46-47** (clockwise from bottom left) Heritage Images/Getty Images; John Keeble/Getty Images; MIGUEL MEDINA/Getty Images; John Keeble/Getty Images **48-49** (clockwise from bottom left) Pascal Rondeau/Getty Images; Heritage Images/Getty Images; Aleksandr Kondratov/Getty Images; eugenesergeev/Getty Images; Aleksandr Kondratov/Getty Images **50-51** (clockwise from left) Robert Cianflone/Getty Images; Vladimir Mladenovic/Getty Images; Mario Ruiz/Getty Images **52** (top to bottom) Mario Ruiz/Getty Images; Tramino/Getty Images; (bottom row, left to right) Emirhan Karamuk/Getty Images; Sjo/Getty Images **53** (top to bottom) Chris McGrath/Getty Images; Michael Cole/Getty Images; Tomas Salinka/500px/Getty Images; RODRIGO BUENDIA/Getty Images; Brandon Woynshnis/Getty Images **54-55** (clockwise from top left) Michael Cole/Getty Images; Charles Coates/Getty Images; Heritage Images/Getty Images; Wild-Places/Getty Images; Gerd Schifferl/Getty Images (3)

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