

Auto Brand Spotlight



Acura



AT A GLANCE

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

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

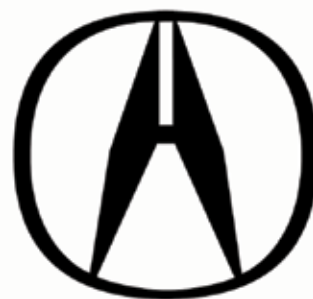
FAMOUS MODELS: Legend, NSX, MDX.

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

Technology and Precision

Since debuting in 1986 with just two vehicle models, Acura has grown into its niche as Honda's luxury brand. Acura's products are well known for innovation, high performance and meticulous craftsmanship.

Acura's Legend was the first luxury Japanese car in the U.S. market, and it was extremely effective in competition with existing European luxury cars. Acura's reputation for innovation was cemented in 1990 with the debut of the NSX, which offered an all-aluminum body and Acura's Variable Valve Timing and Lift Electronic Control (VTEC).



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

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

In addition, the manufacturer's Integrated Dynamics System (IDS) tailors the vehicle's independent suspension to accommodate the driver's preference for either a more sporting or a more comfortable ride. In 2025, Acura's focus on future vehicle designs continued to combine power, performance and style with a car that's fun to drive.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



MDX

First SUV to join Acura's Type S line of high-performance vehicles, with a turbocharged V-6 that produces 355-HP.



INTEGRA

Mid-cycle refresh includes revised trim pattern on the dashboard, larger touchscreen and new paint options.



ALL-ELECTRIC RSX

Newest EV pairs dual-motor power with a sport-tuned double wishbone front suspension.

Audi



AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

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

Innovative German Design

Few automobile manufacturers can claim a place among the top echelon of designers and innovators, and Audi is definitely one of them. Since its founding, this automaker has enjoyed a consistently excellent reputation as a producer of luxury cars.

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

That model has since been discontinued, but the all-wheel



drive technology that made it so fresh and exciting — especially as a sport coupe — continues to be an Audi mainstay to this day.

Never before had the world seen a high-performance vehicle with all-wheel drive, and Audi never looked back. One of the most remarkable things about Audi craftsmanship is the aluminum space-frame technology it uses across the

board.

This design allows Audi vehicles to handle better and accelerate faster.

When Audi's exquisite interiors are thrown into the mix, it's easy to see why this German brand has won over so many lifelong fans through the years.

A significant expansion of its lineup in the mid- to late-1990s saw the launch of the A4 (1994), A3 (1996) and the TT (1998)—models that broadened Audi's appeal across different segments. Meanwhile, Audi's flagship and most luxurious sedan remains the A8.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



A6

Turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder as standard (with a 3.0-liter V6 available) and all-wheel drive, with a host of new luxury and convenience features.



SQ5

Seven-speed V6 engine with 362 hp from a twin-scroll turbocharger and standard double-spoke wheels.



A5

Replaces the A4 with a longer, wider, taller model boasting a 3.0-liter turbocharged V6 with 362 hp in the S5 version.

BMW



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: 5 Series, Z4 Roadster.

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

Pushing the Envelope

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

BMW continues exploring sustainable and visionary designs through concept vehicles like the I Vision Circular and the Vision Neue Klasse. They showcase BMW's push toward efficient, minimalistic mobility. The success of the Z4 Roadster, with its incredibly



sleek body and smooth handling, has kept BMW exactly where it needs to be — pushing the design envelope without sacrificing either precision or style.

Consider the classic 5 Series, an intelligent vehicle that functions as a family car but also

has the exhilarating driving dynamics of a top-notch sports sedan.

Because BMW manufactures a vehicle for every type of lifestyle and refuses to stop innovating on a variety of fronts, the company is poised to continue achieving magnificence in the years to come.

In 2025, BMW updated its first plug-in-hybrid to a total output listed at 717HP, making it the most powerful M5 ever built. Meanwhile, the X3 had a bold new look and plenty of updated features for the next model year.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



M2 CS

BMW's new high-performance variant of the popular M2 coupe boasts a 3.0L inline-6 engine producing 523 hp.



3 SERIES

BMW is adding a new hybrid powertrain option, along with a sleeker, more modern design.



i4

A more efficient inverter will mean increased electric range compared to the current model.

Buick



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: The 2025 Enclave became the first Buick with Super Cruise, GM's new hands-free highway driver-assist technology with automated lane changes.

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Enclave, Lucerne, Roadmaster, Regal.

KNOWN FOR: Affordability, luxury, performance and comfort.

Luxury at a Practical Price

The Buick brand name has been active in the auto industry since the very beginning. It serves as the entry-level luxury division for General Motors, providing affordable alternatives to other luxury vehicles. Buick jumped out of the gate in 2025 with a continued focus on comfort, performance and safety.

It's rolling out a long list of modern safety features across many vehicles in its lineup, including a Rear Cross Traffic Alert and Side Blind Zone Alert. Many of the upscale, high-tech safety features seem more reminiscent of cutting-edge Volvo features than



what domestic family cars have traditionally offered.

Buick is moving its cars upscale and closer to what many drivers expect from a more expensive luxury brand. The quality construction and smooth, quiet driving feel rival

even its cousins from the Cadillac brand.

Overall, the Buick brand is in the middle of a renaissance that puts a new focus on the vehicle experience, from the silence of its engines to the precision build quality inside the cabin. Its styling improved in recent years, most notably with the handsome now-discontinued LaCrosse sedan.

With a long history and exciting future, Buick is continuing to provide quality luxury vehicles at an entry-level price. It's proving it can provide a better luxury value than ever before.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



ENCLAVE

This luxury three-row SUV gains several new equipment and feature options, including a wallet-friendly key card.



ENVISTA

In a model year with little changes from Buick, Buick's entry-level crossover has only undergone some minor tweaks.



ENVISION

Only small changes are also planned for 2026 after a recent redo, most notable of which are a few new paint options.

Cadillac



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Seville, Escalade, Eldorado.

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

True American Luxury

For decades, Cadillac, along with Chevrolet and Buick, has been one of GM's core brands. Cadillac is the brand that says "luxury" like no other American-made car. Despite a long and storied history, and being indelibly etched into the American imagination, Cadillac had lost some of its luster by the 1990s.

After a dramatic reinvention, including the introduction of the exciting CTS sports sedan and popular Escalade luxury SUV, this American brand once again competes with the world's best. Cadillac continued its focus on breaking luxury



boundaries into the 2020s.

The brand moved upmarket, competing more directly with high-end cars from BMW and Mercedes-Benz by introducing the CT6 at the top of its range.

It remained focused on powerful, performance-oriented, muscular luxury vehicles like the CT5-V Blackwing. In short, the name Cadillac has conveyed luxury and style in a distinctly American way for decades.

As GM rebounds, the Cadillac legacy will not just survive; rather, it will continue to set the trend for both American and foreign auto-makers looking to design classy luxury vehicles that would make anybody proud to own one. It is, as the saying goes, becoming the Cadillac of automobiles once again.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



CT5

After a big refresh for 2025, CT5 returns with a range of powertrains including turbo-four, twin-turbo V-6, and a supercharged V-8.



CELESTIQ

A step above mass-production vehicles, each Celestiq is built by hand at GM's Artisan Center to individual buyer specifications.



CT4

This lineup has recently expanded with the high-performance V and V-Blackwing variants. The V-Blackwing is available with manual transmission.

Chevrolet



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Camaro, Corvette, Silverado, Suburban.

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

Affordable, Powerful Style

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

Today it's a company in transition—pivoting toward crossovers, trucks and EVs (like the



Equinox EV) amid tougher efficiency expectations.

Even as sedans like the Malibu and small cars such as the Spark/Sonic/Cruze leave

the lineup, Chevy holds to its heritage: the Corvette keeps the performance flame burning, while Silverado pickups and the Suburban remain benchmarks for capability and space.

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



CORVETTE

All 2026 models will have an all-new interior with a three-screen layout and reworked console, regardless of trim or powertrain. The exterior is largely the same.



EQUINOX EV

This entry-level rechargeable model will now come with vehicle-to-home power capability and multiple charging options.



TRAX

Chevy's lineup of 2026 SUVs carries over mostly unchanged, and that holds true for the affordable subcompact Trax.

Chrysler



AT A GLANCE

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

HISTORY: Founded by Walter P. Chrysler in 1925. Purchased by Fiat in 2009, which merged with Stellantis in 2021.

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

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

Stylish American Value

Chrysler models are generally aimed at aspiring consumers, offering luxury features and stylish looks at reasonable prices.

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

More recently, Chrysler models have used interesting,



classic styling to emphasize their all-American roots. The appeal of these vehicles lies in their attractive design, reminders of better days for this and other American manufacturers.

Chrysler still offers strong models that stand out among the crowd of other vehicles in

their class. These models prove to be impressively competitive and popular with buyers in a market flooded with efficient but bland options.

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



300C

Returns with both hybrid and V8 powertrain options, along with enhanced suspension.



VOYAGER

Boasts second- and third-row fold-flat seats. Voyager and gas-powered Pacifica share the same 287 hp V6.



PACIFICA PLUG-IN HYBRID

Refreshed styling and quieter cabin, with upgraded EV range and faster charging.

Dodge



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Charger, Caravan, Neon and Avenger.

KNOWN FOR: Solid, reliable and powerful vehicles.

Powerful, Sturdy Transit

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

Founded by brothers John and Horace Dodge in 1914, Dodge immediately took off on an ambitious course of expansion and innovation. Basic passenger vehicles were quickly followed by roadsters and four-door sedans.

By 1917, Dodge was already



producing trucks. World Wars I and II and, in many ways, the 1960s were Dodge's heyday, with popular models like the Dart — along with its muscle car, the Charger — cementing its place in households across America. The Caravan breathed new life into Dodge's fortunes in 1984.

As the first bonafide minivan, the Caravan helped make Dodge relevant once more.

More recently, Dodge doubled down on the brand's performance-oriented heritage with the Hellcat era (up to 717 hp) and ultimately the Challenger SRT Demon 170, the most powerful production muscle car to date at 1,025 hp.

Looking ahead, Dodge is setting the stage for its next chapter with the new Charger lineup—pairing fully electric Daytona models with Hurricane twin-turbo inline-six options—aiming to keep the brand's tire-smoke bravado alive in a changing market.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



CHARGER

Offered with electrified and hybrid powertrains, and boasting an all-new aerodynamic body design.



HORNET

Basically a clone of the Alfa Romeo Tonale, this compact crossover has a turbocharged 268 hp four-cylinder engine.



DURANGO SRT

Up to 710 hp with the supercharged V8. Available options with AWD and performance-tuned suspension.

Ford



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Ford's exciting SYNC system connected passengers to the Internet; great gas and hybrid mileage.

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

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

KNOWN FOR: Affordability, power, performance and durability.

Quality Cars for the Masses

The Ford Motor Company has always provided high-performance vehicles that fit the budget of average consumers. In the early 20th century, this enhanced the productive capacity of humanity as Ford cars reached critical mass. This commitment to providing affordable and technologically advanced machines persists.

Ford is leading the charge in the pursuit of energy efficiency. As the market calls for efficient, affordable and innovative new vehicles, Ford was prepared to meet this challenge —



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

Ford continues to dominate the truck market with its F-150 pickup. This truck offers the kind of raw power and durability to do the toughest jobs, and has the refinement of a luxury

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



EXPLORER

After last year's mid-year interior upscaling, available with turbocharged four-cylinder or twin-turbo V-6.



MAVERICK

A practical alternative for those who don't need the size of a F-150, with standard hybrid powertrain.



MUSTANG

Still a muscle car, with a 315 hp turbocharged four-cylinder or a hulking 480 hp 5.0-liter V-8.

Genesis



AT A GLANCE

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

HISTORY: Started as a luxury spinoff from the Hyundai brand in 2015.

FAMOUS MODELS: G80, G90.

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

A New Kind of Luxury Car

If you're looking for a new car that exudes comfort and style, look no further than the newest luxury brand, Hyundai's Genesis.

Founded in 1967, Hyundai premiered a stand-alone Genesis model, the Genesis G90, in 2015. The company had originally conceived "Concept Genesis" back in 2003, describing the prototype in 2007 as a "progressive interpretation of the modern rear-wheel drive sports sedan."

Genesis moved forward with a fresh take on upscale vehicles with a "human-centered"



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

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

The G90 sets the tone for the brand as its flagship luxury sedan. More than half a dozen models have followed.

The G70 was introduced in the U.S. during the 2018 New York Auto Show. Genesis' first SUV, the GV80, debuted in 2020. That was followed a year later by the Electrified G80, Genesis' first production electric vehicle.

Then there was a flurry of activity, as 2021 also saw the premiere of the X Concept and a Gran Turismo EV at the Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition. GV60, Genesis' new EV SUV, was also unveiled in 2021.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



GV70

Well-equipped and well-priced, with standard turbocharged 2.5-liter four-cylinder or optional twin-turbo 3.5-liter V-6.



GV80

After introducing a new Coupe version, available in 2.5-liter rear-wheel, all-wheel, select AWD and advanced AWD options.



G80

Eye-catching with power, there are 300-hp turbocharged four-cylinder engine or a 375-hp twin-turbo V-6 options.

GMC



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Yukon, Sierra.

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

Tough But Still Luxurious

For decades, the extensive line of GMC trucks dominated the marketplace. It was more than a simple vehicle; it was a lifestyle, and a sturdy representation of the American ideology of individualism.

Today's GMC is determined to show the world what it can do best: manufacture long-lasting trucks for working folks. Greater fuel efficiency and an emphasis on integrating electric/fuel hybrid technology into the existing models have become a part of most of GMC's new line of trucks and



SUVs.

The company is bolstered by two things: its refusal to give up, even in a relatively difficult economic climate, and its clear determination to adapt to the changing demands of the market, without alienating its core audience.

GMC's trucks are still geared toward working folks, but the working folks of the 21st cen-

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



SIERRA 1500

Choice of four powertrains, including two different V-8s, spacious crew cab and solid towing and payload.



TERRAIN

This reliable compact SUV now has an off-road-focused AT4 version and an upgraded top-tier Denali model.



SIERRA EV

2026 brings sophisticated exterior styling, many impressive standard features, and a new smaller battery.

Honda



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Civic, Accord, CR-V.

KNOWN FOR: Efficiency, reliability and innovation.

Rock-Solid Reliability

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

Honda's ability to mass-produce extremely well-engineered, highly efficient and innovative vehicles has paid off on a global scale and shows no signs of slowing down. The company has aggressively developed a new fleet of vehicles that relies on alternative energy sources, including natural gas, ethanol, and fuel cell



batteries. As a sponsor of the Copenhagen climate talks, Honda continued to champion and increase the impressive gas mileage of its vehicles.

Honda's intrinsic belief that efficiency and profitability can be achieved in one package makes this global car company

a pioneer in the new realm of environmentally friendly profit. One of its most notable advances was the Insight hybrid, an affordable and advanced vehicle — and proof that green technology can be brought to the masses.

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



PASSPORT

With a rugged new look, this redesign also includes strengthened suspension, updated styling and lots of cool tech.



HR-V

This subcompact SUV is sold with a standard 2.0-liter 4-cylinder, and available all-wheel drive capabilities.



CIVIC

Now with two powertrains, a 150-hp four-cylinder engine and a 200 hp hybrid. Available in either sedan or hatchback.

Hyundai



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Sonata, Elantra, Genesis.

KNOWN FOR: Feature-packed, reasonably priced cars.

Quality at a Great Price

After decades of struggling with a reputation for producing cheap economy cars, Hyundai has turned a corner and is now viewed positively by most consumers.

Since its humble beginnings in South Korea in 1947, to its gradual introduction into the world of automobile manufacturing beginning in 1968, Hyundai has rolled with the punches and has emerged on the other side a clear winner. The 1970s saw Hyundai begin its true ascent into worldwide automobile manufacturing dominance. The Pony, which



became its flagship car, was marketed successfully in Latin America and then in Europe.

In 1982, the Pony was redesigned and then unveiled in Canada the following year. Just one year after that, the sub-compact Excel became the first Hyundai vehicle sold in the U.S. Production exploded, and Hyundai was on its way.

To remain relevant in the

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



IONIQ 6

Restyled for 2026 with a new front-end look, revised interior elements and updated wheel designs.



SONATA

Versions for everyone with three powertrain options, hybrid, four-cylinder and muscular 290 hp turbo.



ELANTRA

Sold in both turbocharged N Line model and optional hybrid powertrains, with new trim options for 2026.

Infiniti



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Q45, G37, M, QX80d.

KNOWN FOR: Luxury, innovative options and technological sophistication.

High-Tech Opulence



Infiniti was created by Nissan Motor Company to market high-end automobiles to U.S. consumers.

This Japanese automaker has provided a standard of excellence to which many big spenders return for a premium driving experience. The latest Infiniti models include all the extravagant options that enhance the comfort of a ride on the open road.

More recently, Infiniti debuted a new naming scheme. In the past, its cars and crossovers have boasted an alphabet soup of names,

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

Infiniti continues to keep a

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



QX60

Small styling changes bring QX60 in line with the larger QX80. Powered by a turbocharged 268 hp 2.0-liter four-cylinder.



VISION QE

Infiniti unveils an all-new long-wheel-base four-door sedan that will be the company's first fully electric vehicle.



QX80

Following its redesign last year, a 450-hp twin-turbo V-6 engine comes standard, with a new Sport trim for 2026.

Jeep



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Cherokee, Wrangler, Patriot.

KNOWN FOR: Indestructibility in almost any environment.

Safety and Adventure

Stories about Jeep's name being a combination of "general" and "purpose" may or may not be true, but the company's desire to create a vehicle that could travel on paved, unpaved or even non-existent roads is obvious for anyone to see.

Enthusiasts from around the world quickly embraced Jeep as the perfect vehicle in which to experience the outdoors. Years of innovation and refinement in engineering have increased Jeep's ability to handle rough terrain, and to do so safely.

Jeep occupies an unusual



place in the automotive industry. Neither car nor truck, Jeep has forged its own identity as a rugged, reliable off-road machine, a welcome and trustworthy companion of adventuresome individuals.

The spirit of Jeep is best exemplified in the Wrangler,

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



CHEROKEE

After being discontinued by Jeep in 2023, the Cherokee returns for 2026 as a hybrid compact SUV.



WAGONEER S

Jeep's first battery-electric vehicle is smaller than the Grand Cherokee SUV – but still packs up to 600 hp.



GLADIATOR

Jeep's only pickup truck has tons of off-road potential. A plug-in hybrid 4xe model is in the works.

KIA



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Forte, Optima and Rio.

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

Sporty Cars to Fit a Budget

In many ways, Kia Motors learned the art of auto manufacturing from the ground up.

Upon debuting in South Korea back in 1944, the company produced bicycle parts and tubing. Over time, it segued into manufacturing the actual bicycles themselves; later, scooters and other motorbikes came along.

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



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

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

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



K4

Sold in sedan or hatchback formats, the tech-laden K4 is sold with a choice of two four-cylinder engines.



EV4

Kia is introducing a four-door electric sedan. All models will boast a front-wheel drive 201 hp motor.



K5

No major changes this year. Most are powered by a 191 hp 2.5-liter, available with either FWD or AWD.

Land Rover



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY:

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

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

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

KNOWN FOR: Pricy and luxurious but powerful and safe.

Continuing a New Era

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

Nowhere has the evolution been more evident than in the introduction of its iconic high-end off-roader, the Range Rover. It was completely redesigned from the ground up, and raised the bar for what is possible in a rugged, luxurious SUV. It's as comfortable as it is



tough, capable of helping drivers relax on the highway or get to destinations far from pavement.

The Evoque turned heads for all the right reasons. A gorgeous, modern-looking vehi-

cle, it was designed to be the most efficient Land Rover ever.

As other brands struggled through economic downturns, just hoping to survive, Jaguar Land Rover reported a jump in its sales. The reputation that this iconic British brand has built for constructing comfortable, luxurious off-road vehicles with the amenities of home is as secure as it ever was. As it moves forward in this new era, Land Rover is showing how a brand can thrive when it makes great products.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



DISCOVERY

One of the few luxury SUVs built for true off-road driving. Look for two new special-edition models.



RANGE ROVER EV

A new addition to the lineup for 2026, based on the long-wheelbase gas-powered Range Rover.



DEFENDER

Available with a quartet of engine options, Defender is expected to be restyled inside and out for 2026.

Lexus



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Lexus has led the way in key, up-and-coming innovations like pedestrian detection, driver facial recognition monitoring and lane-keep assistance. **HISTORY:** Since being launched in the U.S. as the luxury branch of Toyota in 1989, Lexus has enjoyed an impeccable reputation.

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

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

World-Class Luxury



From the very start, Lexus has been a force to be reckoned with in the luxury vehicle market. Since being introduced by Toyota in 1989, the goal of this brand has been to bring exquisite craftsmanship and unrivaled performance to United States consumers.

Considering that Lexus sold its 1 millionth vehicle in 1999 — just in time for its 10th anniversary — it is safe to say that it got off to a phenomenal start. Since then, Lexus has consistently produced solid, reliable cars that routinely earn top marks for design and

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

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

ral models — Lexus has expanded over the decades to include a line of luxury performance sedans like the GS, SUVs like the LX and even several hybrid-powered cars like the RX more recently.

Lexus' styling has taken a new, much more aggressive turn, going from one of the automotive world's most conservative brands to one of its more forward-looking. The NX and RX crossovers both turned heads with sharp styling, and later generations of the full-size LS flagship also looked sleeker and more coupe-like than ever before.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



RZ

Look for upgraded battery packs and electric motors in 2026, including a nice power bump for the RZ350e.



LC

Available as both a coupe and a convertible. A special edition Inspiration Series joins the lineup.



GX

This modern luxury off-roader won't see major changes atop its 349-hp twin-turbo V-6 backed by a 4WD system.

Lincoln



AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

KNOWN FOR: Large luxury cars, luxury SUVs.

History of Luxury and Excellence

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

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

In 1936, a 4.4-liter V-12 engine



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

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

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

Lincoln expanded its success in the modern age with cross-overs, including the Aviator with its focus on an extremely quiet, comfortable ride and an upscale, sophisticated cabin. The smaller Corsair combined power and technology beautifully. In addition, the family-friendly Navigator offers spacious, first-class accommodations that will continue to raise the bar for luxury for years to come.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



AVIATOR

This three-row SUV offers a plush contemporary interior, new tech and a 400 hp turbo V-6 engine.



NAUTILUS

Look for new color options and improved tech features on top of a turbocharged 2.0-liter inline-four.



CORSAIR

Largely untouched since 2024, this compact SUV packs plenty of luxury and sophistication.

Maserati



AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

KNOWN FOR: Exclusive Italian speed and style.

Italian Style and Speed

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

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

One of their first race cars won the famous Targa Florio



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

styled street-legal cars.

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



MCPURA

A twin-turbo V-6 carries over from its predecessor, the M20. New are design and interior tweaks, and a special matte paint option.



GRANTURISMO FOLGORE

No major changes expected from this second-year model, which soars with its EV system's 818 horsepower.



GRECALE

Loaded with tech and available with 300 or 330hp hybrid options, and the powerful 530hp V6 Nettuno engine.

Mazda



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Miata, Protege, 323, 626.

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

Budget-Minded Excitement

From machine tools to three-wheeled vehicles, all the way through to the sleek, slick — and wildly popular — cars that Mazda produces today, there is no question that this has long been an innovative and adventurous automobile manufacturer. The Japanese automaker has proven its mettle in more ways than one, and enjoys a reputation for manufacturing exciting cars for the general public these days.

Mazda's first four-wheeled car was produced in 1960. The R360 took off like wildfire, and set the stage for the brand's later popularity in North



America. The following decade marked the beginning of Mazda's presence in the United States; the RX-2 was its first American offering and it fared very well.

Wankel engines and other innovative perks enhanced the brand's reputation considerably

throughout the 1970s. Following a series of financial troubles, Ford purchased a 25% stake in Mazda in 1979. The merger was a fruitful one, as the Mazda brand was reborn and enjoyed a major boost throughout the 1980s.

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



CX-5

Completely redesigned for 2026, this compact SUV is now wider and longer, with a hybrid version coming soon.



CX-70

The CX-70 mid-size SUV arrived last year to offer a five-seat alternative to the three-row CX-90.



CX-70 HYBRID

Featuring a 323 hp plug-in-hybrid setup, the CX-70 can run approximately 26 miles on electricity alone.

Mercedes-Benz



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY:

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: C-Class, E-Class, S-Class, CL-Class, G-Class.

KNOWN FOR: Luxury, dependability, performance.

Sophisticated Engineering

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

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

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



gent technologies that put driver safety first.

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



CLA

Now available as either a gas-powered or a fully electric sedan, with all-new 800-volt architecture.



G-CLASS

A tough SUV, with a 443 hp turbo- and supercharged six-cylinder along with standard all-wheel drive.



C-CLASS

Luxury-sedan styling, with a comfortable, modern cabin and good handling. No big changes planned for 2026.

Mini



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: MINI Cooper, Clubman.

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

Sophisticated Engineering

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

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



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

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

fun to drive, carries four passengers in relative comfort, is quite fast and nimble and gets good fuel mileage.

The Bavarian owners supplied engineering and production assistance, and the Mini is made to BMW's standards of excellence. Mini later expanded to a wider lineup than ever before, ranging from the sporty Hardtop 2 Door to the spacious and practical Countryman. It's proving that this brand's fun-to-drive appeal isn't limited exclusively to one kind of vehicle.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



COUNTRYMAN

Black 18-inch wheels are available at no cost. Countrymans can now be ordered with black racing stripes.



JOHN COOPER WORKS COUNTRYMAN

Among the small tweaks for 2026 is the ability to unlock and start JCW Countryman Minis with your smartphone.



MINI COOPER

Redesigned for 2025, the Mini Cooper will be mostly unchanged except for the John Cooper Works style package on all S models.

Mitsubishi



AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Lancer, Eclipse, Galant.

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

Adventurous, Sporty and Safe

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

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



became its largest-scale passenger vehicle yet.

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

Dodge brand. Beginning in 1982, Mitsubishi began selling its cars in the U.S. under its name.

The company really became successful during the 1990s with the 3000GT and the Eclipse. Today, Mitsubishi's focus on safety features and exotic perks is helping increase its market share. Mitsubishi has also gained a reputation for its performance vehicles.

The company's emphasis has shifted to more efficient cars in recent years, including electric models, matching the demands of today's drivers.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



OUTLANDER

The old 2.5-liter four-cylinder has been dropped for a turbocharged 1.5-liter four. New LE trim has been added, too.



ECLIPSE CROSS

Built with a 152 hp turbocharged 1.5-liter four-cylinder, models now come standard with built-in navigation.



OUTLANDER HYBRID

A new larger battery promises more EV range. The PHEV also has a new front grille, wheel designs and tail-lamps.

Nissan



KICKS

This compact crossover SUV will now be offered with either front- or all-wheel drive. The 2.0-liter inline-four gas engine creates 148 hp.

AT A GLANCE

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

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Altima, Sentra and Maxima.

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

History of Luxury, Speed

Nissan didn't start using their name in the U.S. until 1981, but this automobile manufacturer has enjoyed a long history that spans back to 1933.

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



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

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

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



LEAF

Once a hatchback, the Leaf EV has been re-launched for 2026 as a small SUV with a longer driving range.



ARMADA

The sporty new NISMO model sees its twin-turbocharged V-6 upped by 35 hp, with cool exterior upgrades.



SENTRA

Completely redesigned with a streamlined look, modern features and a larger footprint.

Porsche



AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

KNOWN FOR: Speed, performance, luxury and maneuverability.

Limitless German Speed

Since the Porsche 356 first attained road certification in June 1948, this brand name has been associated with vehicles of premium performance and legendary luxury.

Classic models like the 911 Turbo have captivated fans of sports cars for decades. Porsche has always been known for its top racers, but the Porsche Panamera gave it entry into the sedan market.

This high-performance luxury vehicle serves double duty as a daily driver and a speed demon that can hold its own on the autobahns. The company gives a nod to practicality



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

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



911

The AWD Carrera 4S trim is now available for the 911 coupe, convertible and Targa. All 4Ss come with a 473 hp twin-turbo.



CAYENNE

Cayenne's infotainment system has been upgraded in the luxe mid-size crossover with sports-car-type handling.



MACAN

A compact luxury SUV with a twin-turbo 2.9-liter V6 engine with increased trims towing as much as 2,400 pounds.

Ram



AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

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

A Truck Brand With Deep Roots

Ram has a long history under the Dodge umbrella.

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

Today, Ram trucks still have that reputation for durability and capability, but they're no longer considered Dodge vehicles — despite being named for



the ram's head logo that had adorned Dodge vehicles since the 1930s.

The earliest Rams were popular with companies that operated fleets of work trucks, but their sales numbers still came in a distant third behind Ford

and Chevy. All that changed in 1994, though, when Dodge introduced a redesigned Ram that was styled like a big-rig truck. The new body, comfortable cabin and strong performance helped the Ram quadruple sales volume from 100,000 units in 1993 to more than 400,000 units in 1996.

Today's new-generation Ram trucks build on that foundation by offering pickups designed to do tough jobs — with some of the best performance on the market — all with a surprising amount of comfort.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



1500

The 5.7-liter V-8 Hemi returns, with 395 hp, while a new Express trim joins the lineup for 2026 as a value model.



RAM HD

Ram HD 2500 and 3500 trucks return with minor changes, other than the Warlock and Black Express trims.



3500

Available with a standard 6.4-L Hemi V8 engine and an optional High-Output 6.7-L Cummins turbo-diesel.

Subaru



AT A GLANCE

TECHNOLOGY: Standard AWD vehicles, boxer engines and Vehicle Dynamics Control bolstered Subaru's reputation for excellent traction and handling.

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

FAMOUS MODELS: Impreza, Legacy and Forester.

KNOWN FOR: Competitively priced AWD vehicles and safety.

Affordable, Safe AWD Rides

Since its inception in the 1950s, Subaru has manufactured reliable, inexpensive vehicles. Most vehicles contain boxer engines, and some models have turbo-charged engines that enhance acceleration and speed.

From 1995-97, the Impreza WRX and WRX STi made Subaru known for its expert handling and speed when modified Imprezas won the title World Rally Championship. In a time of dual-family wage earners and economic decline, Subaru is an



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

Modern Subaru models are sleek and attractive, combin-

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



OUTBACK

Entirely redesigned for 2026, the Outback boasts a new two-row mid-size SUV style, a new interior and updated infotainment tech.



WRX

One of Subaru's two performance models and the only one with all-wheel drive, along with a turbo-charged flat-four engine.



UNCHARTED

Featuring an all-electric powertrain, large touchscreen, key driver-assist features, fastback styling and 18-inch wheels.

Toyota



AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

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

Ahead of the Curve



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

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

cusp of emerging trends and innovations. The launch of its hybrid vehicle, the Prius, in 1997 proved once more that Toyota was keeping its finger firmly on the pulse of public opinion. The popularity of several of its smaller, more fuel-efficient cars — including the Corolla and the Yaris — also confirmed that the company was on the right track. Going forward, Toyota continues to demonstrate a dedication to innovation in terms of a reduced reliance on oil. Hybrids, plug-in hybrids and plug-in cars are all part of its current lineup.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



CROWN

AWD is standard, with 236 hp tri-motor in XLE, Limited, and Nightshade trims and a 340 hp dual-motor hybrid.



BZ

Formerly the bZ4X, this electric cross-over now features updated batteries and new electric motors.



CAMRY

Come standard with a front-wheel-drive 225 hp engine. Look for a new Nightshade trim.

Volkswagen



AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

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

Attainable German Cars

Volkswagen has been delivering affordable and reliable family vehicles to the average consumer since the 1930s.

This German automaker began as a reasonably priced alternative to the Porsche brand. Volkswagen has always enjoyed a reputation for safety and efficiency, but the 21st Century brand looks to lead the pack in fuel economy. Turbocharged Direct Injection engines deliver high-mileage performance.

Volkswagen has proven responsive to the consumer demand for better motion at a



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

sporty handling.

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

Increasingly, Volkswagen became known for its European styling, including the sleek, Mercedes-like Arteon and the always-popular Jetta. With top safety ratings on numerous vehicles, innovative new prototypes and a bustling U.S. manufacturing presence, Volkswagen has a bright future.

VEHICLES TO WATCH



ATLAS

This family SUV still boasts a 269-hp turbocharged inline-four powertrain, after upgrades in two of the last five years.



GOLF GTI

Available with a 241 hp turbocharged 2.0-liter engine. Last year's refresh included new tech features and lights.



JETTA

The SE trim now comes with a standard sunroof, while the top-tier SEL model offers an eight-speaker audio system.

Volvo



AT A GLANCE

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

HISTORY: Founded in 1927 by Gustaf Larsson and Assar Gabrielsson; purchased by Ford in 1999. Ford sold it to Zhejiang Geely Holding Group in 2009.

FAMOUS MODELS: C30, XC90, XC60.

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

Total Focus On Safety

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

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



Smaller outfits have created pure electric vehicles, and other companies have launched successful hybrid lines, but Volvo was the first with such stature, class and refined engineering sense to seriously pursue creat-

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

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

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

VEHICLES TO WATCH



XC60

This compact SUV is now Volvo’s all-time bestseller, with another new grille and infotainment system for 2026.



XC40

After a two-year hiatus, the front-wheel-drive XC40 B4 returns as a base model. It’s powered by a 194 hp engine.



XC90

The mid-size luxury XC90 SUV got a refresh last year, with modern interior touches and improved exterior elements.