



• Lincoln Continental Concept

NEW YORK SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

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Photo: Joe Sage

Hot on the heels of Geneva, which in turn follows the Los Angeles, Detroit and Chicago shows, comes the New York International Auto Show, in early April. Despite the gravitas of all the shows that came before, the manufacturers had plenty still in store for New York (General Motors and Toyota in particular seem to have saved up more reveals than average). In new models, there were some big leaps as well as evolutionary moves. Whereas 50 years ago, a lot of cars looked very different each year but were fundamentally the same, this year there are a number that look fundamentally the same but are highly revised. And of course there are concepts that for now are just dreams. Here are some highlights (alphabetically, with exceptions for the bigger photos at top):

- Cadillac—who had made quite a stir last year with the announcement that their headquarters would move from Detroit to New York—continues to develop both its lineup and its evolving name strategy, as they introduce the **2016 Cadillac CT6** rear-drive sedan, in the brand's return to the prestige luxury segment. Jumping in above the front-drive XTS, the aluminum-intensive CT6 claims the interior space of a BMW 7 Series in a car that's lighter than the 5 Series or the Mercedes-Benz E-Class. The Cadillac CT6 will put 400 hp at your fingertips from a highly-tuned 3.0L twin turbo V6—the first turbo with cylinder deactivation. There will also be a naturally aspirated 3.6L V6 and a 2.0L turbo four.
- This venerable nameplate has had surprising difficulty with sales in the biggest segment of all, midsize sedans. The all-new **2016 Chevrolet Malibu** is a complete restyling—well received by some, derivative to others—in a package that is larger, more fuel-efficient and delivers a more extensive range of driving, safety and connectivity technologies than before. A new hybrid, picking up certain technologies from the Chevy Volt, delivers an estimated 48 MPG city, 47 combined.
- We've done two reviews of this vehicle in the past, one in which we thought it was very clunky looking, and another in which its beauty showed through more, due largely to top-model trim and larger wheels. The **2016 GMC Terrain** shown in New York seems to have discovered both these tricks, plus a restyling that ties those boxy



• 2016 Cadillac CT6



• 2016 Chevrolet Malibu



• 2016 GMC Terrain



• 2016 Honda Civic



• 2016 Jaguar XF



• 2016 Porsche Boxster Spyder

wheel arches together with front and rear bumpers/fascias at full width, creating a more handsome entry in this popular segment. Five trim levels, two engines and AWD on most trim levels together may seal the deal.

- The **Honda Civic Concept** turned a lot of heads, with its vivid green paint and its sharp new lines and overall sporty character, right down to a rear spoiler. Under the hood, it will be the first Honda to apply new VTEC turbo engines in North America. Expect this tenth generation version of this top-selling compact to enter production with only the most minimal of changes from concept, arriving in sedan, coupe, and 5-door hatchback bodies, with Si and Type-R versions.
- The all-new **2016 Jaguar XF** is a largely aluminum second generation version of probably our favorite Jaguar, sedan anyway. It had just been introduced in London, via a high-wire act crossing high above the Thames River, and came to New York to show off recognizably evolved styling on a car that has shed up to 265 pounds. The super-charged V6 and 8-speed automatic deliver up to 380 hp. Intelligence is applied to drive modes, all-wheel drive, safety features and entertainment systems up to a 12.3-inch touchscreen.
- The **2016 Kia Optima** is immediately recognizable, a good move after the smashing success of the prior generation introduced five significant years ago, but is in fact all new—longer, wider and stiffer for tighter and quieter performance. The new Optima will have three engine choices, including two turbos, one of which is a new 1.6-liter, in five trim levels again including the US-only SXL, and is built in the US. Feature and technology inclusions remain extensive.
- An all-new version of the biggest seller in the brand's history, the **2016 Lexus RX** will include an F SPORT on AWD models, as well as available adaptive suspension, and an extensive array of active safety systems combined into one pack-

age. Sheetmetal is dramatically revised, bringing an aggressive, powerful style atop available 20-inch wheels. Engine choices include a 300-hp direct-injection V6 in the RX 350 and an RX 450h hybrid V6 also with 300 hp.

- The **Lincoln Continental Concept** (top left) was one of the biggest show-stealers, bringing a solid new direction to this luxury brand that's been looking for its compass. Seeming to contain styling cues from several well-established European luxury marques, it does do its job, prompting a higher degree of wishing and dreaming than their recent reskinned Fords. The concept suggests everything from a 3-liter EcoBoost V6, to 21-inch painted-pocket wheels, to a 30-way driver's seat.
- The **2016 Mazda MX-5 Club** will be recognizable by its 17-inch gunmetal alloy wheels, front air dam, rear spoiler and piano black mirrors. When equipped with a manual transmission, it receives a limited-slip differential, Bilstein shocks and shock tower brace. A 7-inch touchscreen infotainment system with 9-speaker Bose audio and headrest speakers is also standard. Other performance and aero packages are also available for the Club.
- Mercedes-Benz previously revealed its new GLE, a new name for its top-selling SUV, the previous M-Class—including an AWD plug-in hybrid GLE550e 4MATIC and a GLE300d 4-cylinder diesel. Now meet the **2016 Mercedes-AMG GLE63 4MATIC**, its high-performance model sibling with a 5.5L twin turbo delivering 550 hp and a 0-to-60 time of 4.3 seconds, atop a revised chassis. A **GLE63 S 4MATIC** offers 577 hp and 60 mph in 4.2 seconds. Both are bargains next to the big **Mercedes-AMG G65**, whose price was announced in New York at \$217,900.
- As the brand experiences double-digit growth in its small slice of the American pie, the new **2016 Mitsubishi Outlander** jumps on the front



• 2016 Kia Optima



• 2016 Lexus RX



• 2016 Mazda MX-5 Club edition



• 2016 Mercedes-AMG GLE63 4MATIC



• 2016 Mitsubishi Outlander

KEEP RIGHT >>



• Subaru STI Performance Concept



• 2016 Nissan Maxima



• 2016 Scion iM



• 2016 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid



• Volkswagen Beetle Special Edition concepts



• 2017 Volkswagen Golf SportWagen Alltrack

of that wave. Bearing style elements up front that include cues from both the prior generations, as well as elements of its more utilitarian forebears, and much more attractive work in the rear, the new Outlander bears over 100 design and engineering improvements. Larger wheels and an upgraded interior all add to the vehicle's longstanding value equation, as the brand now sets its sights on some of their highest-volume competitors.

- The **2016 Nissan Maxima**, an eighth-generation revision of a model we had found very attractive in its seventh—what Nissan calls its “four-door sports car”—is immediately distinguished from its predecessor by dramatic new sheetmetal, with notable creases and angles. The full-size front-drive executive car remains a solid value, with a 300-hp V6 and five trims starting at \$32,410 plus an extensive array of driver and safety technical features, as well as a chassis that is both lighter and stiffer than before.

- The **2016 Porsche Boxster Spyder** (top of previous page) brings this pure-sport entry into the new generation, with its trademark lighter weight, trimmer features, lower chassis and characteristic rear fins, wrapped around a 375-hp 3.8L six. Despite its stripped-down, power-prioritized nature—the trim Spyder does not have so much as a radio or A/C standard—this is the top Boxster model. The Spyder soft top is still manually operated, but now in a more traditional form, much easier to operate and stow.

- Largely unchanged from its reveal as a concept at the LA show, the **2016 Scion iM** 5-door hatchback is known to the rest of the world as the Toyota Auris, an evolution of the Corolla hatchback. The sporty Scion version has edgier body styling details, lowered suspension, 19-inch wheels and more performance-oriented brakes. It is expected to sell for just under \$20,000, get 37 MPG highway, and be available with either a 6-speed manual or faux-7-step CVT transmission. Also revealed was the subcompact **2016 Scion iA**, the brand's first sedan, built atop the Mazda2 chassis and promising 42 MPG

highway from a one-spec car in the \$16k range.

- Subaru showed off a planned US expansion of its STI performance lineup beyond the WRX, with a stunning **Subaru STI Performance Concept** coupe (above) built off the popular lightweight BRZ sports car, the brand's only rear-driver. With an engine based on the Subaru BRZ Super GT race car, the body and chassis are also upgraded.

- The **2016 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid** brings the brand's hybrid lineup—something people associate with the brand—to eight. There are four Prius models, two sedans, and this makes two SUV or crossover models. The new hybrid delivers not only higher fuel mileage than its conventional counterpart, but also promises to have more horsepower and quicker acceleration (both as of now unstated) from its alternative powertrain. This sounds like a win-win, but purchase price has not been announced. The hybrid will come in two of the regular RAV4's trims, the top two, and will be equipped with on-demand intelligent AWD.

- **Volkswagen Beetle Special Edition concepts** shown in New York honor 60 years of the car in the US—since 1949 but with a gap that becomes difficult to envision now—with four just-for-fun finishes including Beetle Convertible Denim, Beetle R-Line, Beetle Pink Color Edition (shown) and Beetle Convertible Wave (shown). Two coupes and two convertibles, the quartet display style and finish points that could make it into upcoming production models.

- Nameplate migration for wagons from Jetta to Golf seems complete with the **2017 Volkswagen Golf SportWagen Alltrack**, a do-it-all entry with wagon utility, electro-hydraulically activated 4MOTION all-wheel-drive, about an inch of additional ground clearance, a number of distinguishing style points such as wheel arch moldings, flared sills and new bumpers, and an upgraded interior. Large five-split-spoke alloy wheels add to the show car's aggressive stance and bearing. ■