



• Audi Q8 Sport concept

# GENEVA SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

GENEVA MOTOR SHOW | MARCH 2017

The Geneva Motor Show is among the biggest and most influential of the global automotive shows, surely the sexiest and most businesslike, because that's exactly how the automotive business in Europe can be. Here are this year's highlights, in alphabetical order.

- Audi presented six new models at Geneva, including a world premier of the **Audi Q8 Sport concept**, a bit wider than the Q8 concept shown in Detroit, powered by a 3.0 TFSI V6 with a mild hybrid system combining for 476 hp and 516 lb-ft of torque, capable of 0-to-62 mph in 4.7 seconds with a top speed of 170.9 mph Audi also introduced the new RS5 Coupe (while its 500-plus-hp motorsports sibling, the Audi RS 5 DTM, starts the new race season), the RS3 Sportback, the SQ5 TFSI and a natural gas-powered A5 Sportback g-tron sustainable drive concept.

- The **Bentley Bentayga Mulliner** is a product of Bentley's in-house personal commissioning division. Billed as the ultimate luxury SUV, it's a new flagship model based on the multi-award-winning Bentayga, with new interior and exterior features including optional duotone paintwork, model-specific 22-inch wheels, new interior veneer materials and even a bottle cooler. The SUV's 6-liter W12 engine pumps out 600 hp and 663 lb-ft of torque, for a 0-to-60-mph time of 4.1 seconds and a top speed of 187 mph, staking claim to being the world's fastest SUV. It's available to order now.

- Goodyear's latest spherical tire, the **Goodyear Eagle 360 Urban**, and the IntelliGrip Urban smart tire showcase artificial intelligence and "vehicle-to-everything" (V2X) connectivity. The Eagle 360 Urban evolves for self-driving vehicles, further in-

tegrating the tire into the vehicle's nervous system with its own brain to help autonomous vehicles sense, decide and respond to millions of variables we face every day. A high-sensory super-elastic polymer bionic skin adapts tread pattern to driving conditions via actuators beneath the surface. The tall and narrow Goodyear IntelliGrip Urban offers fuel efficiency or extended electric range.

- The production 2017 **Honda Civic Type R** is on sale by spring, in the mid-\$30k range—the first-ever Type R-badged Honda to be sold in the US. The Type R, sharing the body style of the 5-door hatchback variant of the tenth-generation global Honda Civic platform, features a high performance 2-liter direct-injected i-VTEC in-line four turbo with 306 hp and 295 lb-ft of torque, a substantially upgraded body, chassis and other track-ready, Nürburgring-tuned and -tested performance components, and comes exclusively with a rev-matching 6-speed manual transmission.

- The **Jaguar I-PACE concept** is a near-final look at their first production electric performance SUV, being revealed later this year and on sale in 2018, promising long range, fast charging and exhilarating performance. I-PACE aims for 60 mph in about 4 seconds, 80 percent DC Fast Charge in 90 minutes and range over 300 miles from a 90kWh lithium-ion battery. Compact, lightweight electric motors at the front and rear axles generate 395 hp and 516 lb-ft of AWD torque—a driver's car and all Jaguar. The company promises electrification as an option on all its new cars by 2020.

- Kia had a European reveal of the Stinger earlier shown at Detroit; the global reveal of the new Kia Picanto city car; the Niro Plug-In Hybrid, join-



• Bentley Bentayga Mulliner



• Goodyear Eagle 360 Urban concept



• 2017 Honda Civic Type R



• Jaguar I-PACE Concept



• Kia Optima Sportswagon Plug-in Hybrid (Euro)



• Lamborghini Huracán Performante

ing the new Niro Hybrid; and a **Kia Optima Sportswagon Plug-in Hybrid**. "The Stinger is the most powerful car Kia has ever produced," noted Michael Cole, COO of Kia Motors Europe, "while the new Picanto (is) one of the company's best-selling models worldwide. New plug-in hybrid versions of the Niro and Optima Sportswagon will help Kia achieve its 2020 target to improve fuel economy by 25 percent over 2014 levels." The Optima Sportswagon is not a US model—so far.

- The new **Lamborghini Huracán Performante** combines the latest lightweight technologies and active aerodynamics with aero vectoring and a new set-up of chassis, all-wheel-drive and an upgraded powertrain—a super sports car balanced between achieving the best lap times on a circuit (it set a new production car lap record of 6:52.01 on the Nürburgring Nordschleife in Germany) with engaging and dynamic road driving. The car shaved off almost 90 pounds via forged carbon fiber tech. Its naturally aspirated 5.2-liter V10 has 640 hp and hits 0-to-62 mph in just 2.9 seconds, with a top speed above 201 mph.

- **Land Rover Range Rover Velar**, "the fourth Range Rover," fits between Evoque and Range Rover Sport. With a goal of "reductionism," the model strips away complexity and leaves "elegant simplicity," yet with dual-10-inch touchscreens, slim matrix-laser LED headlights, deployable flush door handles and copper-color detailing. A stiff, light aluminum-intensive structure, adaptive-damped air suspension and all-wheel drive deliver on-road performance, with active locking rear differential for all-terrain use. Velar seats five, holds 23.8 cubic feet of cargo and tows over 5500 pounds. Six global powertrains run up to a 375-hp V6.

- The second-gen Super Series, a product family at the heart of the brand, was revealed in the **McLaren 720S**, with a highly aerodynamic form and carbon fiber chassis based on Monocage II central structure, key to its 2828-lb weight plus

ample interior space and visibility. A driver-focused cabin features fine leathers and aluminum switches. Its new twin-turbo 4-liter V8 has 710 hp and 568 lb-ft of torque (Euro-spec), hits 60 mph in 2.8 seconds and 124 mph in 7.8 seconds, and has a top speed of 212 mph. Braking from 124 mph to zero takes 4.6 seconds and 384 feet. UK deliveries start in May, at about \$260,000.

- The **Mercedes-AMG GT Concept** four-door may join the growing AMG GT family (see Roadsters in this issue). "Clean mobility and amazing performance can go hand-in-hand," said Dr. Dieter Zetsche, Daimler AG chairman and head of Mercedes-Benz Cars. "The four-door sports car is the first to receive our EQ-Power+ label, which we are now using to identify intelligent electrified drive." The Concept boasts supercar stats—816 hp and 62 mph in under three seconds. Also premiered at Geneva were the Mercedes-Benz E-Class Cabriolet, Mercedes-AMG E 63 S 4MATIC+ Wagon and the Mercedes-AMG GT C Roadster Edition 50.

- The global **Nissan Micra** was unveiled in a limited-run BOSE Personal Edition, based on the model's range-topping Tekna trim with extras and personalization features, including a BOSE sound system with twin UltraNearfield speakers built into the driver's headrest, combining with signal processing for immersive 360° listening for the driver. The model comes in Enigma Black or Gunmetal Grey, with Energy Orange elements on bumpers, doors, mirrors and 17-inch alloy wheels, all hand-fitted at the factory in France. The car also includes Safety Pack driver tech as standard. Euro-only, the run will be limited to just 3,000.

- **Pirelli colored edition P Zero and Winter Sottozero tires**—red, yellow, white or silver—use materials and protection systems from F1 racing for personalization. Pirelli Connesso uses an embedded sensor in P Zero or Winter Sottozero



• Land Rover Range Rover Velar



• McLaren Super Series 720S Velocity by MSO



• Mercedes-AMG GT Concept



• Nissan Micra BOSE® Personal Edition



• Pirelli colored edition P Zero / Winter Sottozero

KEEP RIGHT >>



• Porsche 911 GT3

tires (black or colored), to communicate vital information via app—tire pressure and temperature (even while at rest, unlike onboard TPMS), static vertical load, tire wear, miles covered for each tire (and in a future version, estimated remaining life)—plus personalized services. Replacement tires are available now for pre-order. You can mix and match colors and sensors among tires.

- The **Porsche 911 GT3** promises a track-caliber “unfiltered driving experience.” Its high-revving 500-hp flat-four is virtually unchanged from the 911 GT3 Cup racer (developed and built on the same track and production line). Rear-axle steering and a tuned seven-speed PDK are standard, hitting 62 mph in 3.4 seconds, with a top speed of 197.6 mph. With an optional six-speed sports manual gearbox, 0-to-62 time is 3.9 seconds with a top speed of 198.8 mph. Porsche also revealed an expanded Panamera lineup, with a new flagship 680-hp 4-liter V8 plug-in Turbo S E-Hybrid.

- The **Renault Trezor** won 2016 Concept Car Design of the Year, voted by a panel of 20 of the world’s top car designers, with the award presented at Geneva. “Renault’s low-slung, long-nosed, rear-wheel drive, two-seater electric GT clearly appealed to our panel of normally hard-to-please professional car designers,” said *Car Design Review 4* editor Guy Bird. “Judge after judge praised the French EV concept’s dramatic exterior proportions, its interior flair and magnificent use of materials and the strong design connection between exterior and interior.”

- Volkswagen Group’s Spanish SEAT brand, not available in the US, often hints at VW and Audi products we may see. The new SEAT Ibiza debuted in Geneva, as well as the SEAT Leon CUPRACER Evo 17 and the new 300-hp **SEAT Leon CUPRA**, the most powerful SEAT ever, capable of 0-to-62 mph in 4.9 seconds and equipped with a 4Drive TotalTraction system and double-clutch DSG. The car was displayed in matte grey paint with carbon

fiber interior and copper highlights inside and out.

- The **2018 Subaru Crosstrek** is gen two of this rugged yet urbane model, on a new Global Platform with increased strength and rigidity, tighter steering and active torque vectoring—for handling and ride, hazard avoidance, and all-road/all-weather capability. About 80 percent of the 2-liter boxer engine is redone for more power and better fuel economy, and the CVT has auto-step shift control and a 7-speed manual mode. Wider and lower, Crosstrek has rugged matte black cladding from front intake to rear bumper, an 8-inch touchscreen with smartphone capabilities, new aluminum wheels and new colors including Cool Gray Khaki and Sunshine Orange.

- The new **Volkswagen Arteon** is a five-door coupe-like fastback sedan with a degree of elegance, a spacious interior seating five, 19.9 cubic feet of cargo space, and full driver assistance systems as standard at a lower price point than prior models. Upgraded R-Line and Elegance trim levels will also be offered. In Euro-spec, there are three TSI gasoline turbos and three TDI diesels, all transverse four-cylinders connected to a 7-speed DSG dual-clutch gearbox and 4MOTION all-wheel drive, standard. Volkswagen also revealed the Tiguan Allspace, a lengthened seven-seat version of the second-gen model launched last year.

- Gen-two **Volvo XC60**, eagerly anticipated on the heels of the endlessly-award-winning XC90, expands safety features with steer assist, oncoming lane mitigation and blind spot system for lane changes. Optional semi-autonomous Pilot Assist can steer, accelerate and brake on well-marked roads up to 80 mph. A four-zone climate system provides filtered fresh air, while you enjoy Sensus, the Volvo On Call app, XC60 Apple/Android connectivity. The new XC60 offers the XC90’s T8 Twin Engine plug-in hybrid option, with 400 hp and 0-to-62 mph time of 5.3 seconds. The XC60 represents about 30 percent of Volvo’s global sales. ■



• Renault Trezor: Concept Car Design of the Year



• Seat CUPRA



• 2018 Subaru Crosstrek



• Volkswagen Arteon



• Volvo XC60