

Superformance, Shelby, Caterham and a big dose of adrenaline all under one roof Hillbank Motor Corporation opens Tempe superstore

Hillbank Motor Corporation celebrated the grand opening of their new location in Tempe this summer with a ribbon cutting ceremony, car show, door prizes, lunch and more for dozens of car club members and general enthusiasts. The large showroom and service facility is the operation's second, joining another in Irvine, California.

As Arizona's official distributor, the new location houses a wide inventory of legendary Superformance MKII and MKIII replicars, and Superformance GT40 and Corvette Grand Sport continuation cars; Shelby Cobra 289, Cobra 427 and Cobra Daytona Coupe continuation cars, including 50th Anniversary models and the Shelby Sebring Cobra CSX2000 Special Edition; and the Caterham Seven range. Each is meticulously engineered, factory built and fully licensed. Hillbank is also a leading supplier for a range of body kits, performance parts

and accessories.

Superformance cars are built by Hi-Tech Automotive Ltd in South Africa, who transferred dealer ownership to American hands in 2005. Superformance cars are built as body and rolling chassis with suspension, rear differential, wiring and instrumentation—"turnkey-minus," ready for your choice of engine, powertrain and related details. This gives you a basic car that is built to exacting specifications, plus a chance to customize performance to your own tastes, all with 100 percent new parts and build. Art Manni, general manager of the new shop during its summer opening and transition, says that all built out, a Superformance roadster (which is for all practical purposes a Cobra replica, though he points out that they can not say Cobra in any

way) may run you about \$85,000.

Hillbank also offers Shelby Cobras built by Shelby American, which carry the full rights of the Shelby and Cobra names. These are continuation builds of the same cars as originally manufactured in the 1960s, but with updated materials and components. Models include the CSX6000 Series (a 427 street version), CDX7000 Series (a 289 FIA build) and the CSX8000 Series (the original 1962 "slab side" Cobra), as well as special builds such as that CSX2000 Sebring Special Edition. These cover quite a range, but Manni suggests about \$150,000 as a benchmark comparison.

Places that sell both Shelby and Superformance are rare to nonexistent. If you've found yourself torn between the Shelby continuation lineup and Superformance replicars, even given the price differential, you now have a chance to visit one dealer of both for a test drive and objective comparison. Since it's unusual to have a dealership with both, we asked Manni how

they differentiate when someone walks in the door with no preconceived favorite and needs direction. "Each has its appeals and advantages to various customers," he says. With their cooperative guidance, you should have no trouble solving your dilemma.

Caterham Group's heritage-steeped series of currently seven different powerful, lightweight, open-cockpit Caterham Seven models—direct descendants of Colin Chapman's Series 3 Lotus Seven sports racers—were only available in kit form for years, but since 2014, the company has made the cars available via Superformance dealers, built in England also as rolling chassis, also with your choices on engine and powertrain as part of your purchase decision.

Add to these the Superformance GT40 continuation cars, based on the original race-winning Ford GT40 Mk.II from Le Mans over 50 years ago, and the Corvette Grand Sport, a continuation of the 1963 Sting Ray in both coupe and roadster form, and the Shelby CSX9000 Series Daytona Coupe continuation car, and you will want a 12-car garage if you don't already have one.

Hillbank Motor Corporation is located at 2180 W University Avenue in Tempe. ■

