



BIG 3 PERFORMANCE JIM WANGERS SIGNATURE EDITION GTO

Designed to compete with today's supercars, the Jim Wangers Signature Edition GTO, built by Big 3 Performance of Green Bay WI, is all new from the ground up. Constructed on a new chassis from the Roadster Shop, and fitted with a DSE C6 Corvette front suspension and triangulated rear suspension, and sporting Jim Wangers Signature Edition Wilwood brakes at all four corners, this car is built to handle the most demanding road courses.

The car is powered by a Butler Performance 505 cu.in. fuel-injected traditional Pontiac V8 backed by a Viper spec TR6060 6-speed transmission connected to a 3.73-geared Ford 9-inch rear end. Jim Wangers Signature Edition Rally II wheels, by HRE are 19x10 inches up front and 20x12 inches in the rear.

Utilizing original 1969 GTO bodies, the styling is updated with an aggressive front air dam, custom grilles with electric hideaway headlights and HID headlamps. A fully functional custom RAM AIR hood directs air to the big 505. Rear body styling features a custom duck-tail spoiler, flush bumper cover, custom LED taillights and a blacked-out rear panel.

The fully custom interior is designed for both function and comfort. It is built around a set of full power, heated and cooled leather Recaro seats with matching fully custom seats in the rear. Complete instrumentation provides the driver with critical performance info at a glance. Full power and a keyless entry system, a killer audio system with touchscreen navigation, and air conditioning make this a comfortable state-of-the-art cruiser.

This is the car Pontiac should have made but didn't.

The completed car was on display during the Tour de Wangers in mid-October at Wangers headquarters in Oceanside CA for media presentation and road testing. Info: www.big3performance.com. ■



NEW MASERATI GRANCABRIO PREMIERES IN FRANKFURT

The Maserati GranCabrio, the first four-seater convertible in the Trident carmaker's history, made its world wide debut in September at the Frankfurt Motor Show. The introduction of the GranCabrio—the Trident's third prong—completes Maserati's product lineup that now consists of three different families of models: the Quattroporte, GranTurismo and now the GranCabrio.

The GranCabrio was developed to represent the essence of Maserati in an open-top car. It's a Maserati in the purest sense—from the unmistakable style by Pininfarina to the spacious interior—from detailed craftsmanship to driving pleasure and performance. The Maserati GranCabrio enriches all five of the driver's senses in a shared open-air experience, without sacrificing comfort and performance. Maserati pitches the car as designed and built for men and women who love to live life in an understated though sophisticated manner. And it appears that it may well deliver.

The Maserati tradition in open-top cars began with their 1950 A6G Frua Spyder, and continued through a long list of significant open-air models. Maserati says the GranCabrio opens a new chapter, because never before have four-seater top-down models been produced at the manufacturer's Viale Ciro Menotti Maserati factory. Four seats are provided, promising a comfortable ride for back-seat passengers.

The GranCabrio is powered by a 4.7 liter, 433hp V8 engine. The car claims the longest wheelbase of any convertible on the market. The GranCabrio's roof is strictly canvas-made, a Maserati tradition that should also provide quick times for dropping and raising the top, as well as less disruption of available trunk space than with a folding metal or composite roof.

The Maserati GranCabrio will be marketed worldwide starting this winter, and should be in dealerships by spring. ■



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