

First Mustangs in Arizona

Story and photos by Joe Sage

Ford brought two preproduction samples of the new 2015 Mustang to Arizona this fall for a quick media drive—we were able to take both the 5.0 GT and the four-cylinder EcoBoost out for about an hour. You have seen the car before, by now, perhaps on the show circuit, and the 50 Year Limited Edition model as our May/June cover car. This was our first time behind the wheel.

The new car has been totally restyled, yet is 100 percent recognizable as a Mustang from every angle. Gone from the side is the familiar faux side scoop behind the doors, but that turns out to work well with the broad haunch emphasizing the power of the car's rear-wheel drive layout.

The Mustang GT, with its 5.0-liter V8, delivers a more traditional muscle car experience, with its

meaty growl and ample power, while their show-piece EcoBoost four has its own lean and mean power curve and 21st century tech sound effects and feel. There is also a 3.7-liter V6 model.

Together, these make the 2015 Mustang the first car to offer four-, six- and eight-cylinder models, each producing at least 300 horsepower.

All have an all-new front and rear suspension, with high-performance independent rear.

SPECIFICATIONS: 5.0 V8

ENGINE.....upgraded 5.0L V8
 POWER/TORQUE435 hp / 400 lb-ft
 EXHAUST MANIFOLDstainless steel tubular hdrs
 COMPRESSION RATIO, FUEL11.0:1, reg unleaded
 TRANSMISSION.....6-spd manual or 6-spd auto
 WEIGHT.....3705 lb manual, 3729 lb auto
 MPG (CITY/HWY/COMB) ...15/25/19 man, 16/25/19 auto

SPECIFICATIONS : ECOBOOST 4

ENGINE2.3L EcoBoost 4
 POWER/TORQUE310 hp / 320 lb-ft
 EXHAUST MANIFOLD3-port integr w alum head
 COMPRESSION RATIO, FUEL9.5:1, reg unleaded
 TRANSMISSION.....6-spd manual or 6-spd auto
 WEIGHT.....3532 lb manual, 3524 lb auto
 MPG (CITY/HWY/COMB) ...22/31/26 man, 21/32/25 auto

SPECIFICATIONS : 3.7L V6

ENGINEstandard 3.7L V6
 POWER/TORQUE300 hp / 280 lb-ft
 EXHAUST MANIFOLDcast iron
 COMPRESSION RATIO, FUEL10.5:1, reg unleaded
 TRANSMISSION.....6-spd manual or 6-spd auto
 WEIGHT.....3526 lb manual, 3530 lb auto
 MPG (CITY/HWY/COMB) ...17/28/21 man, 19/28/22 auto

The new Mustang will start to appear in showrooms this fall, with prices starting at \$23,600. ■



We also had a chance to take the 2014 Ford Fiesta ST hot hatch for another ride (above; and see Run to the Sun in this issue, where we drove the ST on the highways of central Oregon). 197 hp, 35 MPG highway.

The 2015 Ford Mustang is immediately distinguishable from the rear, where its sheetmetal has been nicely restyled (2.3L EcoBoost 4 in yellow, 5.0 GT red).

