

LIMITED EDITION 2008 BARRETT-JACKSON MUSTANG SHELBY GT UNVEILED AT ARIZONA INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

Photography: Randall Bohl
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Representatives were present from all three partners, including (L-R) Gary Owens, VP Marketing, Shelby Automobiles; Tim Stoehr, Ford Regional Sales Manager, Phoenix Region; Steve Davis, President, Barrett-Jackson; Craig Jackson, Chairman/CEO, Barrett-Jackson; David Kimmerle, President, Sanderson Ford; and Gary Bennett, Vice President of Consignment, Barrett-Jackson. Cues to the model are low-key but powerful, from the rear deck medallion to a Shelby dashplate.

Ford Motor Company, the Barrett-Jackson Auction Company and Shelby Automobiles have collaborated to create a limited edition 2008 Barrett-Jackson Mustang Shelby GT, unveiled the day before the opening of the Arizona International Auto Show.

A total of 100 will be produced, in both coupe and convertible body styles, and will be sold through Arizona Ford dealers. Sales started on the day of the announcement, and a quick sellout was anticipated. (However, you will likely find some were bought specifically for resale; these may show up on eBay, or they may cross the block during January's auctions.) Prices start at \$38,980, including a \$250 donation to the Carroll Shelby Children's Foundation.

Ford sponsors Barrett-Jackson's Family Value Day at the kickoff of their Scottsdale auction, with discounted tickets for adults and children under the age of 12 free. "(Shelbys) are among the most desirable cars ever built," said Craig Jackson, Chairman/CEO of Barrett-Jackson. "Over the past several years, we've worked with Ford Motor Company to raise almost a million and a half dollars for Carroll's Foundation by offering new Shelby cars for sale. It was natural to celebrate our connection to these cars with a very limited edition Shelby."

The Barrett-Jackson Shelby GT engine is upgraded with a Ford Racing package pumping out 319 hp and 330 lb.ft. of torque through a high-flow exhaust system with

X-pipe crossover. A five-speed manual transmission with Hurst short-throw shifter is standard; a five-speed automatic transmission is optional. Sources at the launch event anticipated the following model split:

- Coupe - manual transmission47
- Coupe - automatic transmission14
- Convertible - manual.....28
- Convertible - automatic.....11

The package includes a Ford Racing Handling Pack with special-tuned dampers, unique sway bars and 3.55:1 ratio rear axle assembly. The car sports black 18-inch wheels; overall ride height was dropped and a front strut-tower brace added.

Unique features of the Barrett-Jackson edition will include:

- Black exterior with "Barrett-Jackson Red" LeMans Hood and Side Stripes
- Shelby Cobra roadster hood scoop
- Barrett Jackson Edition Door Sill Plates
- Black interior with the Shelby GT serial number plate
- Special Gas Cap Insert
- Autographed photo of Carroll Shelby, Craig Jackson, Amy Boylan and Steve Davis

"I'm very proud to be part of this limited edition car," noted Steve Davis, President of Barrett-Jackson. "Rarity and documentation are two of the keys to collectibility, which is why only 100 Barrett-Jackson Shelby GTs are scheduled to be built. Each car will come with complete documentation and be included in the factory authorized registry." ■

