

Ford and Cadillac SUVs, Toyota sports car star at auto show

January 13 2019



The three-row Cadillac XT6 crossover SUV is unveiled during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

SUVs and a big pickup truck will get top billing at Detroit's auto show this year, but there are some surprise sports cars and electric vehicles on the agenda.

Press days for the show begin Monday, although there are a couple of unveils set for before the show starts

The most popular vehicle of the bunch is the Ford Explorer, revealed ahead of the show Wednesday night at Ford Field, the home of the National Football League's Detroit Lions.

Cadillac will show off its XT6, a smaller-than-a-truck, three-row family hauler at an event Sunday night. Toyota brings back the high-performance Supra on Monday. The sports car developed a cult following when it was on the market from 1978 to 2002. Nissan and its Infiniti luxury brand plan to show two concept electric vehicles on Monday as well.

This year's North American International Auto Show will take place in January for the final time. In 2020, it switches to June to escape the cold weather and show off more products outside, including autonomous vehicles.

Here are the big unveils coming up for the show, which opens to the public from Jan. 19 through 27:

TOYOTA SUPRA GR

Toyota, normally associated with bland but reliable people haulers, wants to create some excitement for its brand by reviving the Supra GR sports car. If it lives up to its looks, the move might just work. Toyota unveiled the low-slung two-seater Monday, and it's reminiscent of the car that developed a cult following when it was on the market from 1978 to 2002. The rear-drive 2020 Supra is powered by a 335-horsepower 3-liter twin-turbo inline six-cylinder engine mated to what Toyota calls a fast-shifting eight-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters. Toyota expects the Supra to have a zero-to-60 mph time of 4.1 seconds, with an

electronically limited top speed of 155 mph. The Supra has an even weight distribution and low center of gravity for handling. It sits low, has mildly flared fenders and a low center grille with big air intakes that gives it an aggressive, athletic look. The Supra will be in U.S. showrooms this summer. It will start at \$49,990. Gas mileage wasn't released.



The three-row Cadillac XT6 crossover SUV is unveiled during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

CADILLAC XT6

The marketing folks at General Motors' Cadillac brand are hoping the new XT6 big SUV will carve out a niche in the crowded market for

utilities with three rows of seats but aren't so huge they're considered trucks. The six- to seven-passenger XT6 has a chiseled Caddy look and unique premium luxury materials to set it apart, but it's going against well-appointed luxury versions of the Chevrolet Traverse, GMC Acadia and Buick Enclave, as well as entries from BMW, Audi and other automakers. It's also got the same engine as the other brands, a 3.6-liter V6 that puts out 310 horsepower, and a nine-speed automatic transmission. The XT6 has a suite of standard safety features including automatic emergency braking, blind spot detection and rear cross traffic alert. It goes on sale in the summer as a 2020 model in the U.S. Price and gas mileage weren't announced.

CADILLAC FUTURE ELECTRIC SUV

General Motors' Cadillac luxury brand showed pictures of a futuristic-looking electric SUV at a pre-show event Sunday night, disappointing reporters who expected a production-ready vehicle. The sculpted SUV would be built off GM's new electric vehicle architecture, which is expected to be used for multiple vehicles in the future. It had a roofline that sloped from front to back, Cadillac's signature angled LED headlamps and simple interior with no gauges. There were huge infotainment screens on the backs of the front seats for use by the rear-seat passengers. Executives described its battery pack as an "ice cube tray" with cells that can be added or subtracted depending on the vehicle. GM announced last week that the Cadillac brand would be the company's leader for electric vehicle rollouts, with one coming in 2021. But the company said the one showed off Sunday was the next generation, not the one coming in two years.

FORD EXPLORER



Mary Barra, chairwoman and CEO of General Motors Company, left, speaks with Tennessee Gov.-elect Bill Lee before unveiling the three-row Cadillac XT6 crossover SUV during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

Ford's aging Explorer big SUV is getting a major revamp as it faces growing competition in the market for family haulers with three rows of seats. The company unveiled the new version last week at Ford Field, and will display it again at the auto show. The Explorer, last reworked for the 2011 model year, gets a top-to-bottom update that includes a switch from front- to rear-wheel-drive, as well as updated engines and transmissions and some nice standard safety features. The SUV's appearance doesn't change much, but the roof line does slope more from front to back. Ford also added more interior space and second-row seats

that tip and slide forward with the touch of a button. The base engine is an updated turbocharged 2.3-liter four-cylinder with 300 horsepower. There's also a 365 horsepower 3-liter turbocharged V6. And for the first time in six years, Ford is offering a gas-electric hybrid SUV with the new Explorer. It has a 318 horsepower, 3.3-liter V6 hybrid system with up to 500 miles of driving range. And there's a high-performance version with a 400-horsepower 3-liter twin turbo V6. The base price will rise \$400 from the current \$32,365 excluding shipping. Fuel economy wasn't announced. The Chicago-built Explorer goes on sale in the summer.

FORD MUSTANG

The fastest Mustang gets faster. The 2020 fastback Shelby GT500 gets a supercharged 5.2-liter V8 engine with a whopping 700 horsepower. The most powerful street-legal Ford ever built can go from zero to 60 miles per hour in around 3.5 seconds, with a quarter-mile time below 11 seconds, according to the company. It has a seven-speed automatic transmission that Ford says shifts faster than any manual gearbox. Ford said it transferred aerodynamic and chassis technology from the Ford GT and Mustang GT4 racing cars to improve the cornering. To cut weight, the car has a carbon-fiber driveshaft and aluminum cylinder heads. Inside, it gets a 12-inch instrument screen and available Recaro racing seats. The GT500 arrives in showrooms in the fall. Price and gas mileage weren't announced.

VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT

Rather than exiting the sinking U.S. midsize sedan business like two of its Detroit competitors, Volkswagen is staying in by updating the Passat for 2020. But it's not spending huge dollars developing a new chassis or replacing engines and transmissions. VW did give the car new sheet metal (except for the roof) to make it look sportier and tweaked the existing 174-horsepower 2-Liter turbocharged engine. It also revamped

the electrical system to handle more advanced driver assist features such as now-standard automatic emergency braking and blind spot detection. Passat U.S. sales were down 32 percent last year but could get a boost because Fiat Chrysler got out of the midsize car market and Ford will exit soon. The new Passat arrives in dealerships in mid- to late-summer. Price wasn't announced, but VW is trying to keep it close to the current base of \$25,295 excluding shipping.



In this Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 file photo, Ford Motor Co., President, Global Markets Jim Farley, left, and President and CEO Jim Hackett stand next to the redesigned 2020 Ford Explorer during its unveiling, in Detroit. SUVs and a big pickup truck will get top billing at Detroit's auto show this year, but there are some surprise sports cars and electric vehicles on the agenda. The most popular vehicle of the bunch is the Ford Explorer, revealed ahead of the show Wednesday night at Ford Field, the home of the National Football League's Detroit Lions. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio, File)

RAM

The heavy-duty Ram pickup that's designed to do serious work isn't just for serious work. Yes, the new version for 2019 to be unveiled in Detroit comes with an optional 400-horsepower, 6.7-liter six-cylinder Cummins diesel with 1,000 foot pounds of torque that can tow more than 35,000 pounds and carry 7,680 pounds in its bed. But it also gets a smoother ride, softer interior finishes, and can come with real wood and leather and an optional 12-inch touch screen and 17-speaker Harman-Kardon sound system. The mammoth grille on the new version is 30 percent larger than the current one and the fenders are a bit lower. "It's still big-rig styling," says Joe Dehner, head of Ram exterior design. The truck comes standard with a 410 horsepower, 6.4-liter V8. It loses 143 pounds from the current model thanks to an aluminum hood and lighter high-strength steel under the hood. Price wasn't announced. The heavy duty, built in Mexico, goes on sale in April.

LEXUS RC F

For those who want to race at the track on weekends and drive to work on Monday, there's the 2020 Lexus RC F Track Edition. The bulked up track version of the freshened RC F performance coupe gets better aerodynamics due a fixed rear wing and lower front spoiler, both made of carbon fiber. The RC F refresh helped the car lose 176 pounds over the previous version, and the track edition loses another 55 pounds due to lighter wheels and brakes and a titanium exhaust system. Yet the brakes are bigger to handle the heat of the track. Both versions share a 472-horsepower 5-liter V8. But the RC F Track is slightly faster from zero to 60 mph at 3.96 seconds. The new versions will get to showrooms around April. Price and gas mileage weren't announced.

INFINITI QX INSPIRATION

People attending the Detroit show will get a glimpse into what an all-electric Infiniti luxury SUV will look like as the Nissan brand unveils the QX Inspiration Concept. With a battery below the floor and electric motors on all four wheels, the Inspiration's passenger cabin is moved forward for more "lounge-like" interior space. It has a low roof line sloping from front to back with small side windows. Infiniti wouldn't say how far the Inspiration can go on a single charge, but said it will offer "range confidence." No date for production has been set, and it's not certain whether the Inspiration will even be made. But Infiniti has said it plans to make all of its new vehicles electric or gas-electric hybrids starting in 2021.



In this Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 file photo, the 2020 Ford Explorer is unveiled, in Detroit. SUVs and a big pickup truck will get top billing at Detroit's auto show this year, but there are some surprise sports cars and electric vehicles on the agenda. The most popular vehicle of the bunch is the Ford Explorer, revealed ahead of the show Wednesday night at Ford Field, the home of the National Football League's Detroit Lions. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio, File)



Steve Carlisle, president, Cadillac, speaks during the unveiling of the three-row Cadillac XT6 crossover SUV during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



A future Cadillac electric crossover SUV concept is shown on video during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



The Ram 2500 Power Wagon is debuts during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



Reid Bogland, head of Ram brand, introduces the 2019 Ram 3500 HD during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



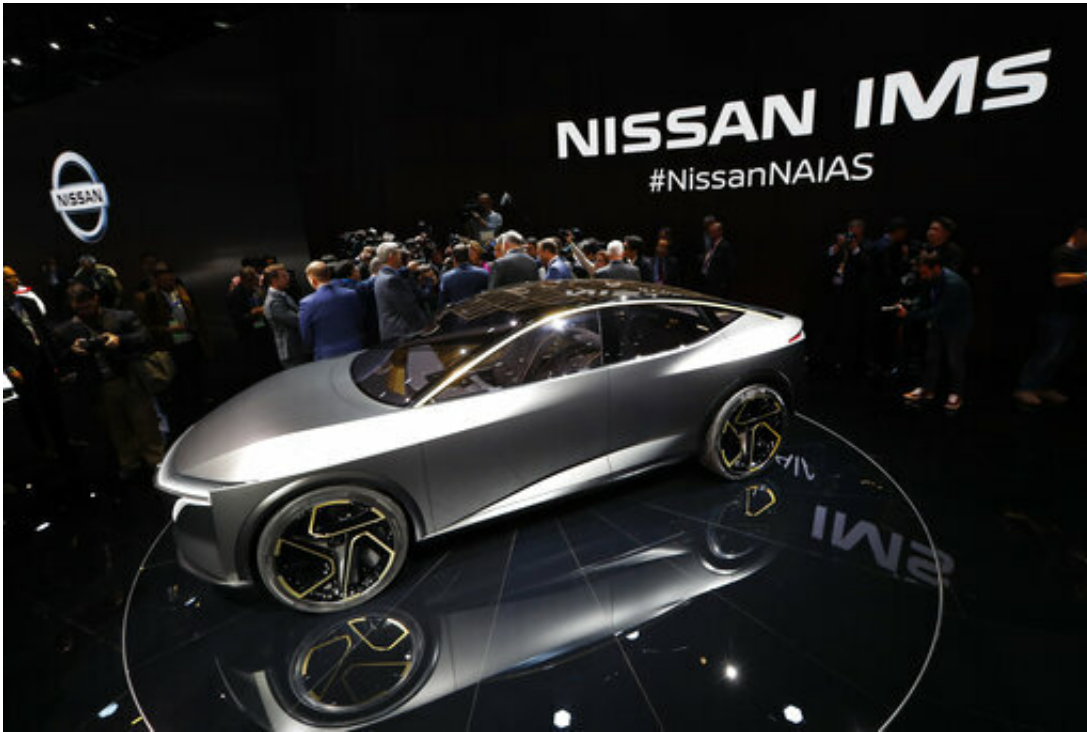
Ford Motor Company's Executive Vice President and president, Global Markets, Jim Farley introduces the 2020 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)



Ford Motor Co. Executive Chairman Bill Ford stands next to the 2020 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)



The Nissan IMS concept debuts during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



The Nissan IMs Concept debuts during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



Denis Le Vot, Chairman, Nissan North America, Inc., speaks during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



Denis Le Vot, left, Chairman, Nissan North America, Inc., and Alfonso Albaisa, Senior Vice President for Global Design for Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. pose with the Nissan IMS concept debuts during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



The Hyundai Elantra GT N Line debuts during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



Scott Keogh, President and CEO, Volkswagen Group of America, Inc., introduces the 2020 Volkswagen Passat during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



The 2020 Volkswagen Passat debuts during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



Scott Keogh, President and CEO, Volkswagen Group of America, Inc., introduces the 2020 Volkswagen Passat and announces marketing sponsorship for the US Soccer during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)



Karim Habib, Executive director of design for Infiniti Motor Co., talks about the QX Inspiration concept, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. No matter how much you rehearse, sometimes the elaborate product announcements at auto shows don't go as planned. On Monday morning, a temperamental Infiniti electric concept car wouldn't run and couldn't make it on stage for the Nissan luxury brand's press conference. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)



In this image made from a video, the QX Inspiration concept is seen under wraps, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. No matter how much you rehearse, sometimes the elaborate product announcements at auto shows don't go as planned. On Monday morning, a temperamental Infiniti electric concept car wouldn't run and couldn't make it on stage for the Nissan luxury brand's press conference. (AP Photo/Teresa Crawford)



The Infiniti QX Inspiration concept vehicle is presented at the North American International Auto Show, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, in Detroit, Mich. (AP Photo/Tony Ding)



The Infiniti QX Inspiration concept vehicle is presented at the North American International Auto Show, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, in Detroit, Mich. (AP Photo/Tony Ding)



The Infiniti QX Inspiration concept vehicle is presented at the North American International Auto Show, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, in Detroit, Mich. (AP Photo/Tony Ding)



The Hyundai Elantra GT N Line debuts during media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

© 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Ford and Cadillac SUVs, Toyota sports car star at auto show (2019, January 13)
retrieved 25 April 2024 from
<https://phys.org/news/2019-01-ford-cadillac-suvs-toyota-sports.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.