

LA AUTO SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

LOS ANGELES AUTO SHOW | NOVEMBER 2015



• 2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio



• 2016 Audi S8 plus



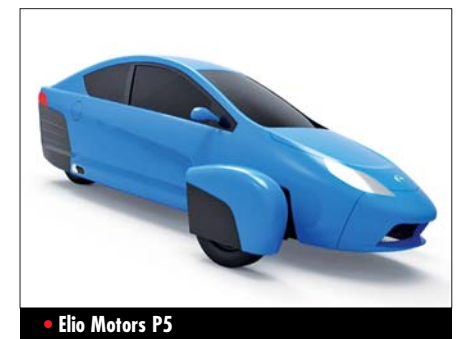
• 2017 Buick LaCrosse



• 2017 Cadillac XT5



• 2016 Chevrolet Colorado Diesel



• Elio Motors P5

The Los Angeles Auto Show is the first of the major international shows on the calendar and the handiest to Arizona, a 45-minute flight or six-hour drive away. Manufacturers bring their latest production model reveals, concepts and technological advances. Here are some highlights (alphabetically).

- Starting off the whole event (as well as our alphabet) was the reveal of the 2017 **Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio**, a rear-drive super sedan introduced with an exhilarating display of its racing predecessors and born with specs that stun the competition: a 505-hp biturbo V6 hitting zero-to-60 in 3.8 seconds and with a Nürburgring record lap of 7:39, fastest ever by a production four-door sedan. Production starts before mid-2016. Base price is anticipated at about \$70,000.

- Audi** brought three new models. R8 skips its 2016 model, but the 2017 arrives soon, with two V10s at 540 or 610 hp. The RS7 adds a 605-hp performance model to its standard 560-hp model. A redesigned S8 has a 4-liter twin turbo V8 over 600 hp. President Scott Keogh also committed to at least 25 percent of US sales to be electric vehicles by 2025.

- The new 2017 **Buick LaCrosse** picks up styling cues from the previous Avenir concept and even a 1954 Wildcat II concept. Longer, lower and wider, the car displays a new Buick face, with a crossbar where the subtle waterfall used to break. The new LaCrosse arrives early this summer. Buick also showed off their Opel-based 2016 Cascada convertible, which will also arrive in showrooms soon.

- Cadillac** showed off its upcoming XT5 sport

Carhop roller girls reflect Southern California's car culture at the Motor Press Guild (MPG) Motor-ing Invitational breakfast sponsored by Alfa Romeo.

utility, slated to displace the SRX in their revised lineup, which also has new alphanumeric names. The XT5 has more interior space while using advanced lightweight materials to keep weight and bulk no more than before. The XT5 will have new V6 engines and all-wheel-drive, as well as a new CUE system plus Apple Play and Android Auto.

- Chevrolet** showed off its new Camaro and Colorado midsize pickup. (Camaro is featured elsewhere in this issue.) While in LA, Chevy grabbed the Green Car of the Year award for its new Volt, Motor Trend Car of the Year for Camaro and Motor Trend Truck of the Year for Colorado, while Volt and the full-size Silverado pickup won their categories in the Hispanic Motor Press Awards. Colorado offers a 31-MPG diesel with 369 lb-ft of torque and 7700-pound towing.

- Phoenix-based **Elio Motors** showed a fifth-gen P5 prototype. This three-wheeler aims to deliver 84 MPG, zero-to-60 in 9.6 seconds and a top speed of 100 mph, all at a price of \$6,800. The P5 is the first with an 0.9-liter, 3-cylinder engine built specifically for Elio by engine developer IAV. Elio's target launch date is late 2016.

- Fiat** brought plenty of game to the LA show. On display were two custom versions of Fiat 500 variants: a very cool custom Fiat 500e done up as a stormtrooper in honor of the impending *Star Wars* release; and a Diane von Furstenberg wrapped Fiat 500X. Fiat's biggest news is a 2017 Fiat 124 Spider, the return of a treasured model not on our shores for over 30 years. The new 124 Spider shares its platform with the Mazda MX-5, but it has a 100 percent different





• 2017 Fiat 124 Spider

body, 5.5 inches longer (with a larger trunk), a hair wider and almost 100 pounds heavier. Its 1.4L turbo is from the 500 Abarth, giving it a bit more horsepower and a lot more torque than the Miata. The Fiat 124 Spider arrives this summer.

- A new 2016 **Ford** Escape picks up style and content from Ford Edge and adds a range of driver-assist technologies and mobile connectivity features. It's the first offering SYNC Connect, for remote door locks, fuel level check and parking locator. Driving tech includes adaptive cruise, forward collision warning with brake assist, lane-keeping, active park assist, hill start assist, blind spot and cross traffic alert. The interior is reengineered with more storage space and more device charge ports. Engines include a 1.5L EcoBoost four and a 2.0L twin-scroll EcoBoost with 245 hp. A Titanium trim levels tops the lineup.

- The 2017 **Hyundai** Elantra is a sixth-generation vehicle, taking the highly successful formula and making it an inch wider and a hair longer, while adding features galore for driving and for an increasingly premium feel. Advanced high-strength steel goes from 21 to 53 percent for a tighter, quieter and lighter chassis. All-new engines include an innovative 147-hp 2.0L Nu MPI Atkins four and a 1.4L Kappa turbo four on a fuel-sipping Eco model. The new Elantra goes on sale this spring. Watch for our launch drive report in the next issue.

- Revealed simultaneously at LA and in China, the new **Infiniti** QX30 brings the full array of Infiniti style and premium fitment to the compact crossover segment. Basically unchanged from the Q30 concept shown at Frankfurt, this size proves to package the Infiniti style and content formula extremely well. Price has not been announced, but we anticipate

the model being a great gateway to Nissan's premium brand.

- Bringing the brand into the SUV space, the 2017 **Jaguar** F-PACE hopes to echo style and performance of the F-TYPE, using a 380-hp V6 with 5.1-second acceleration, yet big enough for 33.5 cu.ft. of luggage. Tech inside and out ranges from intelligent AWD and advanced suspension to a 10.2-inch touchscreen, a 12.3-inch virtual instrument cluster including nav and laser heads-up display. All this starts at just \$42,390. A \$40,990 4-cylinder diesel model arrives later in the year. Sister brand **Land Rover** revealed an Evoque Convertible, which some praised and some compared to the ill-fated Nissan Murano Cross-Cabriolet.

- **Jeep**® introduced two Special Editions at LA: a 2016 Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT Night, with premium black accents, black roof, lightweight 20" performance wheels and available 825-watt 19-speaker Harman Kardon audio; and a 2016 Wrangler Backcountry, also with black accents including a black top, Rubicon rock rails, an upgraded interior (with slush mats for skiers/boarders) and Alpine premium sound. Wrangler Backcountry is the only Jeep available in Xtreme Purple paint. Also during the LA show, the 2016 Jeep Renegade took the crown at Autos de Hoy (Autos of Today) in the SUV Compact segment.

- **Kia** Sportage has checked all the right boxes for many years, a pioneer in its compact crossover segment (and their longest-running nameplate). The fourth-gen Sportage receives a complete rework, starting with its skin. Headlights move up and out, which looked startling in early photos but works well in person. (Its test mules had raised so much interest on highways and byways for months, the new



• 2016 Ford Escape



• 2017 Hyundai Elantra



• 2016 Infiniti QX30



• 2017 Jaguar F-PACE



• 2016 Jeep® Wrangler Backcountry



• 2017 Kia Sportage

Sportage was revealed through a camo-strip.) Structure is stronger and lighter—more spacious inside, more fuel economical than ever, with improved handling and NVH control. A full array of driving assist technologies and driver interface upgrades round out the package. The new Sportage arrives later this year as a 2017 model. Kia also had a full array of stunning and intriguing concepts and modified vehicles on hand.

- A new-gen 2016 **Mazda** CX-9 delivers the model's well-known combination of three-row, seven-passenger style, comfort and utility, basically a full-size interior in a midsize package. A new turbocharged 2.5T SKYACTIV-G is expected to boost fuel mileage by about 20 percent, while delivering stronger and more consistent turbo punch via a clever new 4-3-1 exhaust scheme that feeds the turbo more constantly. All this is fed to i-ACTIV all-wheel-drive, which is engineered to anticipate road conditions for maximized implementation and stability.

- On the heels of last year's launch of an all-new Outlander, **Mitsubishi** revealed its upgraded sibling Outlander Sport, further unifying their lineup around a "Dynamic Shield" face and adding everything from power folding mirrors to 18" wheels to new 6.1" display audio, auto-dim mirror with Home-link and noticeably upgraded seat surfaces—all starting at just \$19,959. Mitsubishi also revealed a highly revised 2017 Mirage, a notable move forward for their successful but sometimes criticized super economy subcompact sedan. Its restyling is significant, inside it upgrades seats and gauges, and it has available 300-watt Rockford-Fosgate audio. Horsepower is bumped a bit, to 78, it still has a generous 10-year warranty and they are likely to keep it as close as possible to the prior model's \$12,995 base price.

- The **Subaru** Impreza sedan concept is largely a next-gen styling exercise, incorporating more of the brand's overall direction in grille treatment, "hawkeye" headlights, seamlessly integrated dynamic flow elements and adding some details inspired by aircraft aerodynamics. We'll be watching for next steps in concept and production.

- Aside from scissor doors as a show car gimmick, we'd be delighted to see **Volkswagen** take their Golf GTE Sport concept to production. This little hatch not only looks stunning, it has an advanced sports car drivetrain and suspension, with a well-endowed plug-in hybrid system. Its 295-horse, 295-lb.ft. 1.6L TSI engine is developed straight from their WRC champion Polo, and the system adds 113/243 horses and torque from two electric motors, one front, one rear. Full power from the system gives zero-to-62 time of 4.3 seconds and top speed of 174 mph, while its plug-in cycle delivers 118 MPG.

- When it comes to concepts, **Volvo** brought something very conceptual: an interior and platform concept for an autonomous car that also allows full enthusiast driver engagement. The car keeps its electronics in play to protect from distractions while you enjoy your own time behind the wheel, but if you prefer to go autonomous for your commute, you will have a wide range of built-in resources falling within a Create mode or a Relax mode.

The LA show has evolved to have fewer manufacturer product reveals and a concurrent Connected Car Expo. The manufacturers always have more on tap for the next round of shows. Up next, domestic: Detroit, Chicago and New York. ■



• 2016 Mazda CX-9



• 2016 Mitsubishi Outlander Sport



• Subaru Impreza sedan concept



• Volkswagen Golf GTE Sport concept



• Volvo Concept 26