



## MOUNTAIN WEST WINNERS: VOTY

**R**ocky Mountain Automotive Press (RMAP), of which we are a member, is centered in Colorado and comprises automotive journalists from the Four Corners states—Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, as well as Wyoming and adjacent plains states Nebraska and Kansas.

With its mix of urban and vast rural areas, elevation changes, open and mountain terrain, canyons, curves and climbs, desert and snow, and executive, farm and ranch and recreation users, this overall region and its vehicle choices have much commonality with Arizona itself.

RMAP's eighteenth annual Rocky Mountain Vehicle of the Year awards recognize both 2023 and 2024 models (applying an overlap due to lingering lockdown-driven production challenges) that were all-new or significantly revised these years.

These awards are not determined in their own comparative drive event. Rather, an RMAP vehicle nominating committee considers powertrain and chassis performance, overall value, and vehicle design and engineering to narrow down finalists for each of four categories, with members then voting. To be eligible, a vehicle has to have been in the regional press fleet and/or evaluated at one of the group's prior drive events.

### RMAP CAR OF THE YEAR: Acura Integra

Seven finalists for 2024 RMAP Car of the Year were the Acura Integra Type S, BMW 7 Series, Genesis G90, Nissan Altima, Nissan Versa, Toyota Crown and Toyota GR Corolla.

The winning Acura Integra "is a car that has a significant amount of power, a trick suspension, a laundry list of other go-fast goodies and a name that resonates with many enthusiasts. For many

of us, the Acura Integra Type S needed to be more than just fast; it needed to retain the spirit of the much-adored namesake. Well, it's safe to say the new Integra Type S delivers a successful modern interpretation. Its backroad performance is downright exciting, and its list of luxury features are enough to satisfy most commuters' demands," says RMAP President Matt Pilgrim.

### RMAP TRUCK OF THE YEAR: Chevrolet Colorado

Three finalists for Truck of the Year were the Chevrolet Colorado, Ford F-150 and GMC Canyon.

The winning Chevrolet Colorado "offers the complete package for our region's unique demands. The turbocharged engine is ideal for our low-oxygen air while its wide powerband makes for effortless climbs up long highway passes, even when towing or carrying a load of gear. Inside, the cabin provides modern connectivity and clean lines for a professional and upscale experience. Especially with the return of the hard-core ZR2 Bison Edition, the Colorado is well-equipped to satisfy the demands of both commuters and adventurers alike," says Pilgrim.

### RMAP SUV OF THE YEAR: Toyota Grand Highlander

Eleven finalists for SUV of the Year were the Alfa Romeo Tonale, BMW XM, Chevrolet Trax, Dodge Hornet, Honda Pilot, Kia Niro (gas), Land Rover Range Rover Sport, Lexus RX, Mazda CX-90, Mercedes-Benz GLC-Class and Toyota Grand Highlander, with the new Toyota winning this award.

Pilgrim notes, "We live in an expansive and adventurous region and we love space. And as the name implies, the Toyota Grand Highlander serves up plenty of it. It also brings impressive efficiency and performance through its two available hybrid systems, the latest in connectivity and enough premium features to satisfy the whole family. Add to that a handsome design."

### RMAP EV OF THE YEAR: Genesis GV60

Seven finalists for EV of the Year, a new category this year, were the Genesis GV60, Hyundai Ioniq 6, Kia EV6 GT, Kia Niro Electric, Lexus RZ 450e, Mercedes-Benz EQE-Class and Nissan Ariya.

The winning Genesis GV60 "is fast, efficient and packed with thoughtful connectivity features that help this tech-forward car seamlessly integrate with our busy lives. It also speaks to us on the fashion front, with precision design details and luxurious materials that speak to the brand's Korean roots. The Genesis GV60 uniquely melds these competing aspects into a coordinated package that resoundingly earned it (its) title," says Pilgrim. ■



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