

What's coming

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This year, Hyundai made side-impact air bags standard on its entry-level car, the Accent.

Infiniti

Infiniti started the year in high style, putting its expressive FX luxury crossover models on the market in January.

The 2003 FX35 has a 280horsepower, 3.5-liter V-6, while the upscale FX45 has a 315-horsepower, 4.5-liter V-8.

Big tires and wheels are the rule here. The FX35 rides on standard 18-inchers, while the FX45 comes standard with 20-inchers, which are the largest standard tires and wheels in the segment.

The FX35 is offered in both rear- and all-wheel drive, while the FX45 comes only with all-wheel drive.

Infiniti's G35 sedan now is available with a six-speed



AP Photo/Jagua

Jaguar's XJ series, including this XJR model, features aluminum monocoque bodies that make the cars weigh less than previous models, even though they are bigger.

manual transmission.

Isuzu

The Japan-based Isuzu brought out most of its 2003 models late — starting in calendar 2003 rather than the traditional fall 2002 time-frame.

That was to help dealers clear out inventories of 2002 models such as the Rodeo and Rodeo Sport.

In May, Isuzu will offer a new titanium package on the 2003 Rodeo. It includes titanium gray overfenders, rear spoiler and side steps. In July, a new appearance package with fog lamps and premium audio system will be available.

Jaguar

The seventh-generation Jaguar XJ sedans will be in showrooms by June.

The new XJs have a monocoque body made of aluminum, helping them weigh less than their predecessors, even though they are bigger. The 2004 XJ8 is nearly 200 pounds lighter than its previous model.

Updated styling retains the familiar classic XJ look. The top of the dashboard is upholstered in the luxurious Vanden Plas.

There are two engines. The XJ8 and Vanden Plas models have the 4.2-liter, AJ-V-8 that's also used in the 2003 S-Type and Jaguar XK. The R model of XJ has a 390-horse-power, 4.2-liter, supercharged AJ-V-8. Both engines are mated to a six-speed automatic.

Jeep

The 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee debuts with a new appearance, expanded model line and features.

The exterior is updated with new front fascia and grille.

There are four models now, with the addition of the new Special Edition, which has a monochromatic exterior and a number of other features.

The 2004 Grand Cherokee also is offered with a factory-installed Navigation Radio. The system combines a 4.9-inch full-color display, AM/FM stereo, CD player and DVD-based navigation system all in one unit.

Limited production begins in March of the Freedom Edition Jeep Wrangler, Liberty and Grand Cherokee.

Lexus

The most popular Lexus model, the RX 300, is redesigned and gets more power as the 2004 RX 330.

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