

# BIG

## What's ahead for 2004 vehicles

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sedan and Chrysler PT Cruiser convertible won't be out until spring.

### Ford

The redesigned 2004 F-150 already went on sale this summer, but fall brings a new Ford Freestar minivan.

The Freestar is the first Ford van with a third-row seat that stows into a rear floor cavity, à la the Honda Odyssey. It also offers a power tailgate, side-curtain air bags and engine choices of either a 193-horsepower 3.9-liter V-6 or a 202-horsepower, 4.2-liter V-6.

There's also a 40th anniversary package with special interior trim, and a Mach 1 limited-production Mustang with shaker scoop on the hood, woven leather seats inside and a more than 300-horsepower, 4.6-liter V-8.

The 2004 SVT Mustang Cobra can be had in a limited-edition Mystichrome Appearance package that provides multi-color highlights to the paint, seats and steering wheel.

### GMC

Get ready for something entirely different in a pickup truck — or an SUV.

The 2004 GMC Envoy XUV mixes attributes of both kinds of vehicles in a novel way.

Out this fall, the XUV has a power-retracting roof over the SUV cargo area, a fold-down midgate that expands the cargo space so it's more truck-like, and a tailgate that can either go down like a truck's or swing to the side, like an SUV's. XUVs are available in two- or four-wheel drive and with a 275-horsepower, 4.2-liter, inline Vortec 4200 six-cylinder or 290-horsepower, 5.3-liter, Vortec 5300 V-8.

About mid-model year, the 2004 GMC Canyon debuts. A bit larger than the Sonoma truck it replaces, the Canyon

is available in two- and four-wheel drive and with a 175-horsepower, 2.8-liter, Vortec 2800 four-cylinder and a 220-horsepower, 3.5-liter, Vortec 3500 five-cylinder engine.

### Honda

The 2004 Civic models, including the Civic Hybrid, have freshened styling, front and back. The S2000 gets a new engine for 2004 that, while keeping horsepower to 240, makes the power delivery quicker with 161 foot-pounds of torque at 6,500 rpm. Seventeen-inch wheels replace last year's 16-inchers on the S2000, and front and rear bumpers as well as interior are revised.

### Hyundai

Hyundai's Santa Fe SUV adds a third, more-powerful engine in 2004. The new 195-horsepower, 3.5-liter Sigma V-6 is mated to a five-speed automatic. There's also a new electronic four-wheel-drive system available which does not require the driver to push any buttons or levers to activate.

### Pontiac

In the fall, the GTO returns as a rear-drive coupe based on the Holden Monaro CV8 from Australia. Power comes from a 340-horsepower, 5.7-liter, LS1 V-8 that's also the base engine for the Chevy Corvette. The GTO is a real 2+2 car, meaning back seats are separate bucket seats, not a bench.

Early in 2004, Bonneville adds a GXP model with 18-inch performance wheels and tires, performance suspension, Monsoon audio and an estimated 275 horsepower from a 4.6-liter Northstar V-8.

### Suzuki

Suzuki enters the mid-size sedan segment for the first time with the introduction of the 2004 Verona. This new four-door was styled in Italy and comes with a 155-horsepower, 2.5-liter, in-line, six-cylinder engine.

Suzuki adds a new compact sedan, the Foreza, in 2004, too. It's powered by a 119-horsepower, 2-liter four-cylinder.

The Vitara four-door

becomes known as the Vitara V6 sport utility and gets 165 horsepower from its 2.5-liter V-6. The two-door Vitara is no longer offered.

### Toyota

The hybrid concept is getting bigger all the time at Toyota, where the 2004 Prius gasoline-electric car has grown into a mid-size, five-door hatchback with sleek, new styling.

The new Prius also marks the launch of a second-generation hybrid system called Hybrid Synergy Drive that produces more power, both from its gas engine and electric motor, and better fuel efficiency than the first Prius. The combined city/highway mileage rating of the new Prius is expected to be 55 miles a gallon vs. 48 mpg for the first-generation model. Best of all, price remains at \$19,995.

And Toyota's largest truck, the Tundra, gets bigger with the debut of the Tundra Double Cab model this fall. With four front-hinged doors and a three-person back seat as well as a 6.2-foot-long bed, the Double Cab is the longest Tundra ever. It's also wider, as Toyota completely redesigned the frame. Tundra engines continue to be a V-6 and the i-Force V-8.

### Volkswagen

VW's first SUV, the 2004 Touareg, began appearing in showrooms this summer.

In the fall, the German carmaker ventures into new territory with its first VW-badged, high-end sedan, the 2004 Phaeton.

Larger and longer than any VW car sold in the U.S. before, the luxurious Phaeton is powered by a 330-horsepower, 4.2-liter V-8 or a 414-horsepower, 6-liter, W-12 engine.

### Volvo

For 2004, a 208-horsepower, 2.5-liter light-pressure turbocharged replaces the 2.4-liter five-cylinder engine that put out 197 horses in last year's S60 and V70 front-wheel-drive models. The cars also get new rack-and-pinion steering for improved road feel and self-centering.



AP Photo/Toyota

With a 6.2-foot long bed, Toyota's Tundra Double Cab is the longest Tundra yet.

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