

'97 VEHICLES

By Myron D. Stokes

A VIEW OF THE FUTURE

The world's auto manufacturers, acutely aware of the extremely competitive climate within the U.S. car market, have been busily fine-tuning their wares for 1997. Several carmakers have followed Volvo's lead in providing lateral air bags. Volvo was first with these side impact protection devices in 1995, followed by Mercedes and Audi. For '97, Cadillac and Lexus offer them on some models. In other areas of technology, Cadillac is offering a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS)-based highway emergency system known as OnStar. Although it's less sophisticated than Cadillac's, Lincoln-Mercury introduced the first such system, RESCU, in 1996. Four of the hot new cars to watch for in '97 are Cadillac's Catera, Chevrolet's fifth generation Corvette, Jaguar's XK8 sports coupe and the rebirth of the hot rod: Plymouth's racy Prowler. And the others? Let's begin with Ford Motor Company.....

FUTURE

of it. Get the 5.0L V-8 only if you tow a boat.....The new EXPEDITION, based on the F-150, challenges full-size sport utility competitors like Chevy Suburban, Tahoe and GMC Yukon. It's powered by a standard 215hp 4.6L SOHC V-8 coupled to a 4-speed electronically-controlled automatic transmission, and there's an optional 235hp 5.4L SOHC V-8.....Econo-car TRACER is all-new for '97 and features exterior and interior design changes that are more reflective of Ford's flashy new Taurus. It's offered as a 4-door only. The standard engine is an advanced 110hp 2.0L four-cylinder with a manual 5-speed transmission, or an optional 4-speed automatic. Dual airbags are standard as are new, more powerful head lamps. Look for an "econorocket" GT coupe version in the fall of '97.

LINCOLN-MERCURY

For 1997, Lincoln-Mercury dealers finally get what they've been screaming for; a sport utility..... The MOUNTAINEER is a jazzier version of Ford's Explorer; except it has standard V-8 power, 4-wheel ABS brakes, dual airbags and optional full-time-all-wheel-drive. A nicely appointed interior, including captain's chairs for second row passengers.....MARK VIII gets more than a basic makeover for '97 with a couple of world firsts: a neon light tube that runs the length of the rear deck lid. There are also side view mirrors that incorporate ground lighting as well as a second set of turn signals, plus a tilt feature for improved rear

DOMESTIC FORD

America's number one selling vehicle, the F-150 pickup, is completely new for '97, and Ford is intent on maintaining its market supremacy. Available as a 4x2 or 4x4, the standard powerplant is a 4.2L 205hp

V-6; with 4.6L and 5.4L V-8s offered optionally with 220hp and 235hp respectively. Ordering the extended cab model gets you a third door for easier rear cabin access. EXPLORER, although basically unchanged, gets a marvelous single overhead camshaft (SOHC) 4.0L V-6 that is the essence of smoothly delivered power; all 205 horses



FORD EXPEDITION



LINCOLN MARK VIII



CHEVROLET VENTURE

BUICK PARK AVENUE

*Fueled by a 290-horsepower V8
and the spirit of its ancestors.*



Embodied in the XK8 are an all-new 32-valve V8, a luxurious burl walnut and Connolly leather interior, a 4-yr./50,000-mile warranty,* and an unmistakable legacy. Call 1-800-4-JAGUAR or <http://www.jaguarcars.com>.

JAGUAR XK8
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