

Cruise  
with  
the  
best...

Wrangler

Jeep

Cherokee Classic

## HONDA

Will Honda regain its position as 'King of the Hill' among carmakers? Don't be surprised if sales of the completely redesigned Honda Accord surge to the top of the U.S. sales charts next year, recapturing the title held by Accord from 1989 to 1991 as America's best-selling passenger car. By paying attention to details, Honda is able to offer the '98 Accord at last year's prices, even though the car is bigger, quieter and more luxurious. The top-of-the-line Accord EX V6 model now is available with wood trim, the first time ever for a Honda brand car. A brand-new 3.0-liter V6 engine is available and Honda made some major improvements in the four-cylinder engines, as well.

## NISSAN

Look for the new Frontier compact pickup truck, restyled Altima sedan and freshened Sentra small car. Thanks to a long-standing relationship between Nissan and Ford, who share engineering and design technologies, the Frontier is based on the same platform as the Ford Ranger. Still, Nissan's truck has a better integrated grill and four-cylinders pumping 143 horsepower under the hood. Nissan has made numerous improvements on the Altima sedan, which it will feature in an ethnic advertising campaign to be launched in December in conjunction with its sponsorship of a TV special on the Thelonius Monk Institute of Jazz. The Sentra gets a new grill, headlights, bumpers and tail lights, and adds another trim level, the SE.

## MITSUBISHI

Only minor changes are in store for the 1998 line-up. The Montero sport-utility vehicle is now available in one model, with options sold in separate packages. The Mirage small car, redesigned in 1997, gets minor changes in equipment packages. The Galant ES is now offered with a five-speed transmission and anti-lock brakes are now standard on the upscale Diamante.

## TOYOTA

Have the Japanese finally cracked the code? For more than a decade, Asian automakers have feverishly tried to figure out the formula for a successful minivan. But so far, products like the Toyota Previa have had little more than a cult following. That could change with the Previa replacement, Toyota's new Sienna. It is being billed as "the Camry of minivans," since it shares the same platform as the best-selling sedan, although Sienna's wheelbase is stretched to 114 inches. Also, the full-size Avalon sedan gets a new look for '98 with a restyled front and rear end, and the Corolla is completely updated. Toyota's Lexus luxury division gets a redesigned GS 300 and a new GS400, and a more powerful LS 400 and SC 400.

# 1998 AUTO REVIEW



Honda Accord



Nissan Frontier



Mitsubishi Galant



Toyota Sienna