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Porsche 911 Turbo

Pigs don't fly, but this force-fed porker might

THE ROLL-OUT of Porsche 997 911 Carrera variants continues unabated, with these spy pics showing a near-production-ready Turbo in northern Scandinavia.

The car's high-performance intent is clearly evident in the ducktail rear spoiler, gaping cooling vents in the front fascia and rear guards, and the diffusers either side of elongated exhaust pipes. New-design 19-inch alloys and a pair

of outboard foglights complete a picture of sophisticated aggression.

With the existing 996 911 Turbo boasting a handy 309kW, and the S version upping the ante to 331kW, expect the 997 Turbo models to trump both these figures. Power from the boosted 3.8-litre flat-six should ramp up to 335kW or better with the help of twin turbos and Porsche's new variable turbine geometry (VTG), claimed to

combine the benefits of a small and large turbocharger in one.

Sources indicate that while peak torque might not shift too far from the current Turbo's 560Nm, or 620Nm for the S, the emphasis will be on even greater flexibility and more low-rev punch.

As with the current car, drive will be channelled to all four wheels, while Porsche's Ceramic Composite Brakes (PCCB), is likely to be standard on the S and optional on the base Turbo.

The car is expected to debut at the Geneva motor show in March, and in Australia in the third or fourth quarter. Pricing is estimated to be \$325,000-plus.

Porsche 911 GT3

Also snapped virtually undisguised, Porsche's next-generation road racer, the 911 GT3. The lightened and stiffened 911 shell – replete with

twin central tailpipes and bi-plane rear wing – is expected to pack a warmed-over version of the 3.8-litre flat-six, punching out in excess



of 290kW, when released in Europe in May.

Computer-generated image



Mercedes-Benz C-Class

Stuttgart readies latest salvo in prestige battle

MERCEDES is set to return the fire from BMW's E90 3 Series with an all-new W204 C-Class sedan, expected to debut at the 2007 Geneva motor show.

This prototype (above right) was captured undergoing cold-weather testing near the Arctic Circle and, even with the disguise, it's possible to make out the car's overall proportions and basic

design elements. Fill in the detail provided by the accompanying artist's impression and you get a fair idea of how it'll look.

The compact Benz inherits many hand-me-down styling cues from the latest-gen S-Class, including its muscular flared guards, swept-back grille and prominent headlights.

Dynamics are expected to be

much sharper thanks to a revised version of the current double-A-arm front suspension, and a trick new multi-link rear suspension. The latter is said to be the key to the new C's improved ride, handling and packaging.

As before, the C-Class will be offered in sedan, station wagon, sports coupe and convertible body styles.

New C-Class styling clearly inspired by latest S-Class



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MERCEDES-BENZ CL

Mercedes is honing a replacement for the fat-cat CL coupe, and this spy pic indicates the car retains the basic proportions of the existing model. However, the new CL gains a Maybach-esque derriere and loses the four-eyed face of the current coupe.

Briefs



Navigational blunder

We made a blunder in the Launched story on the Alfa Romeo 147 JTD in *Wheels* January. Our breakout panel highlighted the benefits of the Navman ICN 635 portable navigation system, but the accompanying image depicted Alfa's factory-fitted sat-nav system. Our apologies to Navman. Here's what the actual device looks like.



Eyeing new Territory

Thai car buyers were given their first close-up look at the Aussie-made Ford Territory at the recent Bangkok motor show. Local media there speculated that the free-trade agreement between the two nations could mean an attractive price tag for the big wagon, but Ford Australia insists the exercise was merely to gauge public reaction.



Finer China

Holden has barged into the Chinese market with the Buick Royaum, and riding on its coat-tails is HSV, which recently received an order for 100 'special' Granges to be delivered to the world's most populous country. The HSVs will take their place in the Shanghai General Motors (SGM) model line-up as the flagship of the Buick Royaum range – the Royaum Luxury Sport.