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Special pullout section

## FIRST LOOK

# Nissan unveils the 'four-door sports car' in New York

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Metroland Media

NEW YORK: The 2015 New York International Auto Show opened its doors to the press on April 1 with a slew of springtime debuts by automotive companies from around the globe.

One of the stronger performers to step out into the limelight was Nissan, a company that has been on a roll lately with record-setting sales percentages and new manufacturing milestones, also adding three new unveilings to reload their arsenal of new vehicles.

### 2016 Nissan Maxima

One of the main events at the show was the debut of the new 2016 Nissan Maxima, the company flagship, renewed with an eighth generation revision, almost a perfect clone of last year's Sport Sedan Concept that was designed to refresh the "Four-Door Sports Car" mantra of the original Maxima.

To achieve that renewed sport emphasis, this newest Maxima is lower, longer and lighter. The height has been dropped by 33 mm (1.3 inches), the body has been stretched 55 mm (2.2 inches) and curb weight reduced by 37 kg (82 lb).

The exterior design is sleeker



Nissan Canada's president Christian Meunier was on hand for the 2015 New York International Auto Show debut of the all-new 2016 Maxima. The latest eighth generation company flagship features added power, bolder styling lines, a new familiar V-Motion grille, a "floating roof" design and new boomerang-style front and rear light treatments with LED accents that accentuate a renewed emphasis on the Maxima's 'Four-Door Sports Car' theme.

with a lower 0.295 coefficient of drag, yet it is also bolder and brasher, featuring the new Nissan signature V-Motion grille, an aggressively wide, hunkered down stance, and blacked-out pillars that give the illusion of a "floating roof". Those cues follow the pre-

cedent set by the earlier release of the new Nissan Murano.

Designers also cite GT-R influences while the boomerang headlight and taillight assemblies, accented with modern LED touches, obviously trace back to Nissan Z heritage. And, speaking of the "4-

Door Sports Car", if you want to impress your friends and neighbours with intimate product knowledge, point out an almost hidden cue - tiny "4DSC" logos embossed in the lenses of those new lights.

As expected, Nissan tweaked engine power to enable the new

Maxima to "walk the talk". In fact, they rebuilt the legendary VQ 3.5-litre V6 with more than 60 per cent new components, boosting the power by 10 hp to a 300 hp rating. The torque rating remains the same at 261 lb/ft but Nissan boasts that the 2016 Maxima's power-to-weight ratio is now better than that of the Acura TLX V6 and BMW 335i.

There was some expectation that Nissan might reveal an AWD option at the show but they are sticking with front-wheel-drive for now. Maybe they're saving that surprise for a follow-up year.

Nissan estimates a 15 per cent improvement in highway fuel economy. A projection translated from U.S. numbers works out to about 10.7/7.8L/100km (city/hwy) but we'll have to wait for Canadian testing to get the official rating.

Inside, the cabin is quieter, or louder if you prefer.

Active noise cancellation and acoustic isolation improvements tame road noise intrusion, but punching the Sport mode button adjusts throttle input, steering feel and transmission response while Active Sound Enhancement amplifies the engine note inside the cabin for a little more of an adrenaline rush.

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