

# AutoWeek editors name winners at Paris show

The AutoWeek editorial staff has announced its Editors' Choice Award winners for the 2008 Paris Motor Show.

For more than a decade, the editors of the weekly automotive-enthusiast magazine have scoured show floors in Detroit, Geneva, Paris, Frankfurt and Tokyo, selecting winners in four categories: Best in Show, Best Concept, Most Significant and Most Fun.

The 2008 AutoWeek Editors' Choice Award winners for the Best of Paris are:

**BEST IN SHOW:** Lamborghini Estoque. "While the design is somewhat contrived, the Estoque really has presence when you see it in person."

**Contenders for Best of Show:** Ferrari California, Saab 9-X Air and BMW 7-series

**MOST SIGNIFICANT:** Honda Insight: "This hybrid car will be cheaper than the Prius, have

high fuel economy and seating for five. Honda has officially returned to the game they used to own."

**Contenders for Most Significant:** Audi A1 Sportback, Pininfarina Bollore, Mercedes Fascination and Volkswagen Golf

**BEST CONCEPT:** Peugeot RC HyMotion4" "If the French automakers were to come to the U.S., this is the car Americans would want. Here is an electric sports car we can love."

**Contenders for Best Concept:** Honda Insight, Mercedes Fascination, Audi A1 Sportback and Saab 9-X Air

**MOST FUN:** Audi S4" "The S4 is a rocket ship that is fun and fuel efficient. It satisfies on all fronts."

**Contenders for Most Fun:** Fiat 500 Abarth Essece, Ferrari California, Volkswagen Golf GTI and Lexus IS250C



The Lamborghini Estoque won the Best in Show award as determined by the AutoWeek editorial staff at the Paris Motor Show.

# Preparing for a safe winter driving season

It may still be just the beginning of autumn, but it's also prime time to start thinking ahead to winter.

Of course the first thing that comes to mind when prepping your car for winter is tires, because once the temperature drops below 7C, so does an all-season tire's ability to grip the road.

Colder weather brings on a whole new set of driving challenges like slush, ice and hard packed snow. And even with all of the performance capabilities built into today's vehicles, they will only perform as steadily and responsively as their tires allow.

And in extreme winter weather, that can mean the difference between focused braking power and out-of-control handling.

"It's a fact: as temperatures drop below 7-degrees Celsius, so does an all-season tire's ability to grip the road. And that can lead to dangerous driving conditions," said Joerg Burfien, director of R&D, Continental Tire North America, Inc. "

Winter tires are uniquely designed to deliver safety and control in snow, ice, and cold weather conditions, because they are specially engineered to deliver a substantial increase of traction over all-season radials, by as much as a 25 to 50 per cent.

That's enough gripping traction and braking power to avoid a severe weather-related accident.

Winter tires are engineered with pliable tread compounds and tread designs that remain soft and flexible in even the coldest temperatures, increasing

the contact area and providing better grip on wet or icy roads.

Tread design features include more supple compounds, deeper tread grooves and smaller shoulder grooves.

Once your car is properly outfitted with the right tires for the season, there are a number of other steps drivers can take to make sure their car is ready for when the cold weather comes.

Now is the time to give your car a thorough checkup. You can do most of these jobs yourself, but some work really must be done by a professional.

- Radiator: Add a dose of antifreeze to the coolant
- Shocks: Should be checked. Defective shock absorbers increase braking distance and shorten the lifetime of tires
- Wiper fluid: Add a dose of frost protector
- Battery: Check the acid level for optimum performance
- Spark plugs: check for wear and replace if necessary
- Lights: Check and align properly for maximum efficiency
- Be sure to include the following equipment in your trunk: a set of jumper cables, a snow brush/ice scraper and a de-icing spray

• Winter tires: Set the pressure 2.9 psi higher than what is in the summer.

Once you've given your car a thorough checkup, the best protection against breakdowns and accidents in winter is driving with foresight.

This includes taking extra care on bridges or at traffic lights, as well as keeping a greater following distance from the car in front.

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<sup>1</sup>Limited time financing offers based on new 2008 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2008 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2008 Element LX 2WD, model YH1798E available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. MSRP is \$25,290 plus \$1,540 freight and PDI financed at 0.9% APR equals \$457.47 per month for 60 months. Cost of borrowing is \$618.26 for a total obligation of \$27,448.26. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. \*Cash purchase savings will vary from model to model; \$5,000 / \$5,000 / \$4,500 / \$7,000 cash purchase savings apply to 2008 Accord Sedan EX-L V6 NavI, models CP3688KN, CS2288KN only / 2008 CR-V EX-L and EX-L NavI, models RE4878JN and RE4878JN only / 2008 Odyssey EX-L, EX-L RES and EX-L NavI, models RL3868J, RL3878J and RL3888K only. Cash purchase savings - a combination of rebates and other dealer incentives - will be applied as follows: on Accord Sedan EX-L V6 NavI and Coupe EX-L V6 NavI models, \$3,000 before taxes, \$2,000 after taxes; on Odyssey EX-L, EX-L RES and EX-L NavI models, \$3,500 before taxes, \$1,000 after taxes; on Element SC models, \$5,000 before taxes, \$5,000 before taxes, \$5,000 before taxes. See your Honda retailer for details. \*Offer valid from October 1st, 2008 to participating Honda retailers. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details. <sup>2</sup>You may be eligible for the Government of Canada's ecoAUTO Rebate Program. 2008 Civic models with 1.8L engine and manual transmission qualify for a \$1,000 rebate. Visit [www.ecoaction.gc.ca](http://www.ecoaction.gc.ca) for more information.