

WHEELS

Chevrolet Avalanche 2001

Chevrolet will produce a 2001 street-going version of the Avalanche concept truck it showed at the recent North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

The Avalanche has the attributes of a pickup truck and a SUV. With chunky styling that will carry over into a number of future GM offerings,

the Avalanche also features the Convert-a-Cab System.

"Avalanche combines the roominess of Suburban-style first and second row seating and the practicality of a Silverado-style cargo box," said Chevrolet GM Kurt Ritter. "It can be reconfigured to function as either a pickup or a SUV or both at the same time."

The truck has seating for five plus a normal truck box of five-



SHOWN AS A CONCEPT TRUCK, CHEVROLET WILL OFFER THE AVALANCHE AS A PRODUCTION MODEL IN 2001.

feet, three-inches in length. When the owner wants more cargo room, he reconfigures the Midgate. This is the back wall of the cab that folds into the interior of the car to create a four-foot by eight-foot-one-inch bed. One person can reconfigure the cargo area without tools and in seconds.

The interior features premium, ballistic materials. The durable fabrics can stand abuse from wet clothing and muddy

bike pants. Water bottles have been sewn into the seats with dedicated connectors for North Face Summit back packs. Chevy is increasing its collaboration with outdoor clothing and gear maker North Face with the interior, using many North Face-inspired colors and fabrics.

Besides the Midgate, the Avalanche has a removable rear window (an idea borrowed from Corvette) that can be stowed. The tailgate is made of composite materials and there is a three-piece cargo box cover that, like the cargo bed, is made of composites for long life.

Power is a Vortec 5300 V8 with a four-speed automatic and Autotrac four-wheel-drive.

THE MORE NEW MODEL PREMIERES THAN EVER TO "FUEL YOUR DREAMS"

Canada's largest Auto Show, in Canada's biggest Convention Centre, in Canada's most extensive Automotive market will once again feature Canada's most comprehensive selection of new automobiles and everything else that's automotive, as the Canadian International AutoShow roars into Toronto starting on February 18, 2000.

On display will be over 1,000 new cars and light trucks in two buildings covering over 550,000 sq. ft. (55,000 sq. m.)

Manufacturers have responded to the new millennium with a flood of new models that are sure to catch the public imagination and guarantee that interest in things automotive will be at an all time high. Here are a few highlights that will "fuel the dreams" of CIAS visitors at the 2000 AutoShow:

TOYOTA SEQUOIA SUV

The Sequoia, scheduled to go on sale in late 2000 as a 2001 model, will be built alongside



the Toyota Tundra pickup and will share the full-size pickup's platform and V8 powertrain. Significantly larger and roomier than the 4Runner, Sequoia will

complement Toyota's SUV lineup with the size, features, performance and pricing that are currently in such high demand with recreationally active families. Sequoia will feature the same 4.7-litre i-Force V8 engine that powers Tundra. The engine will produce 240 horsepower and 315 lb/ft of torque, and will be the first Toyota truck engine to be certified as ULEV, or ultra-low-emission. Sequoia will ride on a slightly modified version of Tundra's stout platform. The independent double wishbone-type front suspension will be nearly identical to that of Tundra. The rear suspension, revised for increased ride comfort and excellent control, will feature a five link live axle with coil springs. Four-wheel discs with Antilock Braking System (A.B.S.) will be standard on all models.

LEXUS IS 300

Lexus will expand its award-winning line of luxury automobiles and sport utility vehicles with the all-new IS 300 compact 4-door sport sedan, which arrives in July as a 2001 model. With its 215 horsepower, 3.0 litre inline 6-cylinder engine and a sophisticated rear-wheel drive chassis design, the IS 300 will challenge the notion that the best high-performance compact sport sedans come only with European nameplates. Positioned below the Lexus GS luxury high-performance models, the IS 300 will compete with such established sport sedans as the Audi A4 and BMW 3

Series. Pricing, to be announced later, will be extremely competitive with those cars. Lexus expects the IS 300 to enhance the brand's appeal among buyers in the 25-40 age group.

JAGUAR XKR

Available in both coupe and convertible body styles, the XKR is distinguished visually by its wire-mesh radiator grille, functional hood louvers, a modest decklid spoiler and 18-inch diameter alloy wheels fitted with Z-rated Pirelli tires. The XKR's centerpiece is its supercharged 4.0-litre AJ-V8 engine that has proved a versatile performer in the XJR sedan. To accommodate installation in the sports car chassis, the air-to-water intercooler assembly and cooling system have been modified slightly. The supercharged engine is upgraded to a higher level of emissions controls and onboard diagnostics for the 2000 model year. The car's performance credentials are balanced by a full complement of luxury features, including the classic Jaguar interior treatment of burl walnut and leather, as well as a standard 320-watt premium audio system with six-disc CD changer.

SUBARU FORESTER

The All-Wheel Drive Subaru Forester combines the rugged versatility of an SUV with handling, ride comfort, safety and fuel efficiency of a passenger car. Subaru redesigned the

CONT.

Japan test swipe and drive cars

Twenty electric mini-cars have been put into service on Yokohama, Japan, to test whether city-dwellers, commuters, shoppers and tourists can be tempted to rent pollution-free vehicles on a "swipe and drive" basis.

The cars are two-seater Nissan Hyperminis. They are being offered in much the same way that some European cities offer bicycles that can be rented or borrowed for a trip, then parked at the nearest base station for use by the next customer.

In Yokohama, the electric cars are available at unmanned charger and rental stations in Yokohama's Minato Mirai 21 district. This is a newly developed neighborhood with a high concentration of office towers, shopping areas, cultural and tourist attractions. Parking is at a premium.

Promoters of the Hypermini project believe the multi-use rental cars may ease pollution, congestion and a shortage of parking space. They see businesses renting such cars for office errands, while tourists will find them convenient for shopping and sight-seeing trips.

Other uses that have been suggested include daily commutes to and from the local transit station, grocery shopping, hospital visits and so on.

Nissan will also begin selling or leasing Hyperminis to various national and local government agencies, starting in February.

The Yokohama project is backed by the Japan Electric Vehicle Association as well as two federal agencies. One of them (JSK) is affiliated with Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

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