

Cadillac goes a little longer

We hear from our usual trusted sources that an extended/longer version of the upcoming 2017 model-year XT5 (called the XT7) tall wagon will go into production by mid-2018 at the earliest. At that time, the XT7 will join the Escalade to provide three rows of seats, although the XT7 will be no where near as large or as pricey as the big body-on-frame Escalade sport utility vehicle. In fact, the XT7 will reside on the same platform as the second-generation GMC Acadia and Chevrolet Traverse. The assumption is that the stretched model will use the same 310-horsepower 3.6-liter V6 as its shorter sibling, although we wouldn't rule out a turbocharged V6 from other Cadillac models such as the CTS/XTS sedans.



The upcoming Cadillac XT7 will basically be an extended-length, tall wagon version of the XT5 with three rows of seats.



2017 Nissan GT-R

2017 Nissan "Godzilla"

One of the world's quickest production cars will be even quicker when the heavily revised 2017 Nissan GT-R makes its consumer debut this summer, after being sneak-peeked at last March's New York Auto Show. The coupe's hand-built twin-turbocharged 3.8-liter V6 will make 565 horsepower and 467 pound-feet of torque, an increase of 20 horses and four pound-feet. Other changes include more a aerodynamic front end and new side panels, and a more upscale interior with a Napa leather dash. Nissan has retuned the suspension for a smoother ride, and an acoustit glass windshield trims down road noise, while keeping the GT-R's 0.26 drag coefficient. The next-generation GT-R isn't due until 2020 at the earliest, but it's expected to take styling cues from the Concept 2020 Vision Gran Turismo.



The Italian military police have taken delivery of a 500hp Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio.

Meet Officer Giulia

If the *polizei* in Germany use Porsches while patrolling the Autobahn, you can only imagine what the police in Italy drive if they have to chase after Ferraris and Lamborghinis.

The Italian military police, at least, have just taken delivery of an Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio, whose 2.9-liter twin-turbo V-6 puts out 505 horsepower and 443 lb-ft of torque. While it will be adapted to accomodate police equipment and systems, it won't be used for routine traffic management or



The civilian Italian police fleet includes Lamborghini Gallardos and Smart cars.



other every-day law enforcement duties. Rather, the Giulia Quadrifoglio will be employed for higher pay-scale jobs like escorting VIPs around and transporting organs for donations, the kind of missions that require timeliness.

Did we mention the car has a top speed of 190 mph?

Fiat Chrysler will be supplying the Carabinieri with around 800 new vehicles over the next year. Aside from the Giulia, FCA will be providing Alfa Romeo Giuliettas, Fiat Panda 4x4s and even Jeep Renegades.

As an aside, in 2004 Lamborghini donated a Gallardo (top speed: 190 mph) to the Italian Police, who liked it so much they purchased another one a year later for \$160,000. The Italian *polizia's* fleet also includes Smart cars.



Don't get too excited: This 707-hp Jeep Wrangler Trailcat was a one-off for show purposes only.

A Wrangler Hellcat? Dream on.

Being super-handy at swapping out engines and being able to source a Dodge Charger Hellcat or Challenger Hellcat powerplant for your Wrangler is the only way you'll be driving something approximating the Jeep Trailcat.

Some of our off-roading associates became rather excited when they recently glimpsed the Jeep, which was one of seven concept Jeeps displayed at the annual Easter Jeep Safari in Moab, Utah. The enlarged (as in a 12-inch stretch in wheelbase) lime-green Wrangler has a 707-horsepower supercharged 6.2-liter V8 Hellcat V8 along with 39.5-inch Goodyear off-road rubber and a big-time suspension upgrade. Unfortunately, this Trailcat is a one-off from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles strictly for show.

TEST DRIVE

2016 GMC Terrain AWD Denali

Continued from page 1 (17/24 (FWD), 16/23 (AWD)), but it's a far more drivable motor, and in any event, buyers are traditionally less concerned about mpg's, when gas prices are at relatively reasonable levels.

Like most crossovers, Terrain has ¾ rear blind spots, made worse here by the intrusion of the rear seat headrests. This year, technology workarounds (side blind zone alert, rear cross traffic alert) are available on SLE-2 and SLT trim levels. They're once again standard on Denali, which was formerly the only Terrain that could take advantage of the technology. The top-ranging Denali is also fitted with lane departure warning and forward collision alert.

Terrain is stable and predictable going down the road, with a road trip worthy, comfortable ride. More so on Denali models, which get a model-specific, cushier suspension tune. Sporty it is not, however, so those looking for a more

engaging driver will find competitors like the Ford Escape or Mazda CX-5 more to their liking. Jeep's Cherokee, meanwhile, gets most of the attention in this class for shoppers with serious, off-road intentions.

sEquipped with AWD, Terrain is more suited to all-weather, as opposed to all-terrain travel. GMC's full-time, on-demand all-wheel drive system transfers power from front to rear wheels as necessary, for max traction. The system works in concert with Stabilitrak: GM's stability control system with traction control and rollover mitigation.

Utility is a big reason why so many people shop for crossovers. Terrain is sized such that it can seat 4-5 comfortably, and still have space for their stuff. There's adult-sized head and leg room up front. The rear seats have 8" of travel fore and aft, so you can add room where you need it, for passengers or gear.

If it's the latter, Terrain's cargo capacity ranges from 31.6 — 63.9 cubic feet,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURER

TEST DRIVE this vehicle at these preferred dealerships:

D'ELLA CADILLAC BUICK GMC, INC.
293 Quaker Rd., Queensbury, NY · 518-793-3871 · www.dellacars.com

GOLDSTEIN BUICK GMC OF ALBANY
1671 Central Ave., Albany, NY · 518-869-2291 · www.goldsteinbuick.com



depending on how you configure the seats. Though it lags segment leaders like RAV4 (38.4 — 73.4) or CR-V (37.2-70.9), the storage space is usably large. It would be even more useful if the rear seatbacks folded to a completely flat load floor, and if the lift over height in back was a little lower.

The center console bin is deep enough to house a tablet or small laptop. A 7-inch color touchscreen interface is front and center on the revised center stack on all models. SLE-2, SLT and Denali trims get GMC's IntelliLink. Connect with Blue-

tooth or the USB port and the system lets you link your smartphone via voice activation or steering wheel mounted controls. Terrain has quiet cabin, but if you want to make a little noise, you can stream audio directly from your phone, through aftermarket apps like Pandora or Stitcher.

A regular contributor to the Times Union for more than 20 years, Dan Lyons is the award-winning author of six books, and photographer of 165 calendars. Read Dan's recent reviews online anytime at timeunion.com/vehiclereviews.