



2020 BMW Grand Coupe

## The BMW 2-series coupe to get a four-door cousin

Sources report that the German automaker will introduce a four-door **Grand Coupe** in late 2019 as a 2020 model. Also unlike the 2-series coupe, the Gran Coupe will be built using BMW's latest front-wheel-drive platform, one that also underpins the Mini Countryman.

200-horsepower turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder is expected to be the base engine, with more potent variations to eventually become optional. Transmission choices consist of a six-speed manual and optional eight-speed automatic. The Gran Coupe's arrival will provide competition for the **2019 Mercedes-Benz A-Class** sedan and hatchback, as well as the **Acura ILX** and **Audi A-3** sedans.



## Meet Ferrari's most powerful V-8

The Italian maker will unveil the 488 GTB's replacement this week at the Geneva Motor Show, which began on Thursday. The new **Ferrari F8 Tributo** will have a 3.9-liter V-8 engine making 710 hp and 568 lb-ft of torque, which tops the 488 GTB's by 49 horses and 17 lb-ft. Ferrari says the Tributo will be the most powerful V-8 production model it's ever sold. And fast? The Tributo will go from 0 to 62 mph in 2.9 seconds, with a top speed of 211 mph. Thank the lightening of the car, which is 88 pounds lighter than the 488 GTB, with a 10 percent improvement in aerodynamic efficiency. The S-Duct first seen on the 488 Pista has been redesigned to improve downforce by 15 percent more than the 488 GTB, and new brake cooling intakes up front improve airflow. The mid-rear engine Tributo will also be graced with a new version of the Ferrari Dynamic Enhancer, which helps control lateral dynamics in high-performance situations, and will now be able to activate in Race mode. For more racing effect, the steering wheel's rim has become smaller in diameter. MSRP is \$276,550.



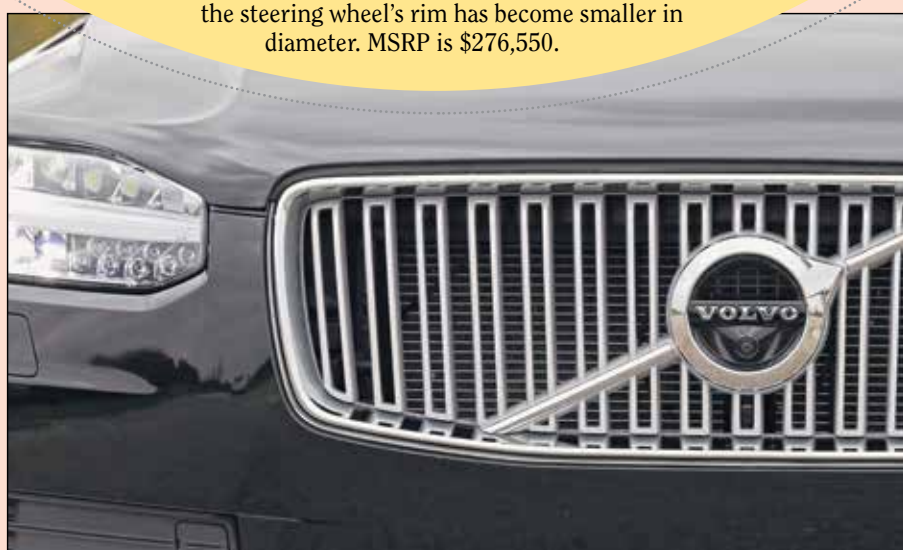
The 2020 Mustang 5.0 V-8 cranks out 480 horses. The next step down is the base 310-hp four-cylinder, but Ford is looking to lessen that power gap.

## Mustang to offer a more potent four-cylinder option

Reports are that **Ford** execs have approved a more potent four-cylinder engine to help fill the giant gap between the **Mustang's** base 310-horsepower turbocharged 2.3-liter four-cylinder and the next-up 460-/480-horsepower 5.0-liter V-8.

With an anticipated 350 horsepower, that's still 110 shy of the 5.0, but the higher-output 2.3 will give the Mustang a distinct edge over the four-cylinder and V-6 offerings, respectively, from the **Chevrolet Camaro** and the **Dodge Challenger**.

Look for the punchier turbo to join the Mustang lineup for the 2020 model year.



For safety's sake, the 2020 Volvo XC90 will see its top speed cut down by 20 mph.

## Volvo to limit cars' speed

The Swedish maker renowned for the safety of its vehicles is taking that one step further. **Volvo** announced this week that it will introduce a 112-mph speed governor on all its new vehicles in order to meet its self-titled Vision 2020, a pledge to eliminate passenger fatalities in its cars by 2020. Volvo's **XC90**, its flagship SUV, currently has a rated top speed of 132 mph.

Volvo also plans to introduce cameras that monitor the driver's attentiveness to prevent distracted or intoxicated driving. Another plan in the works is geofenced speed limit technology that would slow vehicles around pedestrian areas such as schools.

### TEST DRIVE

## 2019 Ford F-150 Raptor

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got more here than you'll probably ever use — but you know that you could. And as far as charisma, with its tall in the saddle stance, beefy (34-inch) meats

Raptor's specialized nature makes it best suited for those will actually use it off-road... at least occasionally.

and bad boy front end, Raptor is all kinds of cool.

Raptor comes in two flavors. A SuperCab stickers for \$52,855, while the SuperCrew lists for \$55,840. My test truck had a handful of options which collectively bumped the sticker to a lofty \$71,885. The largest chunk of that bump

came from Equipment Group A (a 4.10:1 rear axle with a Torsen limited slip front differential, 360 degree camera, a Bang & Olufsen premium sound system and 10-way power front seats with heat and memory — a nice package, but spendy at \$9,365).

Other options included a Tailgate Step (useful, \$375), a spray-in bedliner (ditto, \$595), and lots of City Slicker stuff: second-row heated seats (\$125), Raptor Technology Package (\$1,695 — lane keeping system, lane departure warning, auto high beams, rain sensing wipers, adaptive cruise control with stop and go, windshield wiper deicer).

New for 2019 is a Recaro sport seats option (Blue Accent/Recaro Seats — \$2,395 — front buckets hold you in place nicely when hearty, off-roading might otherwise relocate your rear end). Blind spot monitoring is also available and recommended (\$590 — surprisingly not standard). A trailer tow package is



TEST DRIVE this vehicle at these preferred dealerships:

**DEPAULA FORD**  
799 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 336-0979 [www.depaulaford.com](http://www.depaulaford.com)

**JACK BYRNE FORD**  
1003 Hudson River Rd., Mechanicville, NY 12118  
(518) 664-9841 [jackbyrneford.dealerconnection.com](http://jackbyrneford.dealerconnection.com)



included, though the trailer backup assist feature that's part of this package on other F-150's is not).

A pickup box extender is also available (\$250) and helps make the most of a short box). Stowable loading ramps are also offered. The \$595 option makes it easier to load/unload your ATV or motorcycle, and tuck out the way when not in use.

Raptor's specialized nature makes it best suited for those will actually use it off-road — at least occasionally. Though that's where it's happiest, it cleans up nicely when asked to mingle with civi-

lized company.

It's a big truck and the ride quality is somewhat stiff and jittery, but the interior is most appointed (far more than anything this hard core used to feel like).

And — closer to home — as to wintry conditions, while it's theoretically possible to get this truck stuck in snow, you'd have to work awfully hard to do so.

A regular contributor to the Times Union for more than 25 years, Dan Lyons is the award-winning author of six books, and photographer of 180 calendars.