

1999



For its 35th Mustang pony is a trapezoidal enclosure. And

the anniversary many of the car's traditional design features have been reworked including the tri-color bars on the front fender sides; honeycomb grille; rear spoiler; rocker panel molding; hood scoop; side sculpting and scoops; flared wheel arches -- all these coupled with the long hood and short deck that have been the Mustang's heritage. The taillights are vertical tri-bar units that also hark back to the original ponycar.

anniversary, the back in its corral, albeit rather than rectangular that's not all. To mark

Add to that the crisp, fresh look of "New Edge" design concepts such as slim wraparound halogen headlights with integrated turn signals; larger, three-inch diameter dual exhausts, and a hood and rear deck comprised of a sheet molded plastic compound that eliminates corrosion while reducing weight.

Engines have advanced to provide improved power and torque. The 3.8 liter, split-port fuel induction V-6 has been boosted to 190hp, thanks to Teflon-coated pistons and freer flowing cylinder head, while the GT's 4.6 liter SOHC V-8 is now rated at 260hp, up 35 horses. Higher lift, longer duration camshafts, coil-over-plug ignition; and revised intake manifolds and bigger valves increase airflow above 2,000 revs. A revised combustion chamber shape with better airflow means complete burning of the air/fuel mixture to enhance power, emissions and fuel economy.

All-speed traction control on all models improves vehicle handling, especially on slippery surfaces. A traction control system, controlled by the driver through a console mounted switch, detects excess drive-wheel spin to electronically retard ignition timing, control fuel flow and cylinder cutoff in conjunction with brake application to reduce wheel slip.

A widened rear track improves handling and control; new spring rates and spring/shock/stabilizer tuning ensures a smoother ride, and the Mustang's turning circle has been shrunk to make for more nimble steering. Convertibles get new, boxed frame sections to reduce mid-car vibration. The brake system has been revised with a modified master cylinder, pedal ratio and new twin-piston calipers in the front, all of which make for shorter, more controlled stopping.

In the cockpit, seat travel is increased one inch for taller drivers and all drivers benefits from a six-way adjustable power seat. Seats employ new fabrics, patterns and contoured backs. New interior colors (Medium Parchment and Midnight Black) have been added and trim is color-keyed. A revised premium speaker system lends an upgrade to audio system that now includes a combined AM/FM stereo/radio CD unit.

As far as electronic conveniences, a revised module replaces separate controls for wipers, illuminated entry, anti-theft and remote entry sub-systems. Fog lights are able to be turned on independent of the headlights.

What's ahead?

Yet to be introduced as this release was prepared was the 1999 SVT Cobra. There have been hints that independent rear suspension, the first in Mustang's history, will set the Cobra apart, as will its DOHC 4.6 liter engine that will be boosted to 320 horsepower.

What a way to cap off Mustang's first 35 years, and what a fitting way to enter the millennium.

True to its tradition of innovation and enviable position on the cutting edge of automotive technology, the ponycar has experienced evolution and change -- some self-initiated, some induced by outside influences -- yet it has remained true to its roots...a sports car for the masses.

A Mustang embodies a certain temperament, a dash, a personality that has appealed to a legion of faithful owners over the decades. They understand the car, appreciate its handling and performance, its style and grace, and when they sit behind the wheel, car and driver become as one.

This collection of facts and photos may have some nostalgic appeal. WE hope it brings back memories of that first ride perhaps in a classic '64 1/2 or '65; the raw power of the legendary big "Boss;" the beauty of the Mustang II, or the thoroughbred characteristics of the latest generation.

Whatever your favorite or favorites, imagine what excitement waits around the corner as we enter the 21st Century.

We hope you've enjoyed!