10 Surprisingly Good American Performance Cars People Forgot About

These cars may have been lost in time, but certainly not erased from history.

BY VINCENT MUZZIO

PUBLISHED 4 DAYS AGO



America has a long history of producing amazing **sports cars** and other performance vehicles. Many have stood the test of time and have become iconic cars, desired by collectors around the world. Many have not and fallen victim to the bigger names and the more popular vehicles.

Even within their own categories and models, some of the biggest names have been forgotten. People may remember the Camaro SS or Z28, but perhaps the IROC -Z slipped their minds. The Ford Lightning of the 90's and 2000s may have been passed over due to the new electric

)

10 _{/ 10} **1985 - 1990 Chevy Camaro IROC-Z**



The <u>IROC-Z</u> came on to the scene sporting 16" wheels, fog lights, lowered body, and a special graphics and paint package. The car was named after the International Race of Champions racing series. The IROC-Z was discontinued after Chevrolet did not renew their contract with the racing series after 1990.

rts of ma	naro history goes, the IROC-Z was just a small blip on the radar. It won over the ny gearheads, including those dedicated to other brands like Ford. This car had ower, and performance but has been overlooked throughout the years.
	HOTCARS VIDEO OF THE DAY
	This 2006 Porsche Cayenne Turbo Has A Very Cool Pump Fea

1994 - 1996 Chevy Impala SS



The Impala SS from this time period was based on the Chevy Caprice models, which was also one of the cop cars of the day. It came with the usual beefed up V8 engine, a better stance, deleted chrome, cooler wheels, and of course, dual exhaust. It was just enough to give the car a muscle look to set it apart from the cop car/family car look of the Caprice.

Chevy Impala - ClassicCars

)

Via: ClassicCars

Via: Manum

The car was different and fun. One of those cars your kids would be proud to be picked up at school in. GM discontinued this body and frame from its line of cars to focus on producing more SUVs. With such a short window of production of this car, it has been forgotten, and most people think of the Impala SS from the 6os instead of this unique one from the 9os.

8 / 10

1987 - 1988 Ford Thunderbird Turbo Coupe

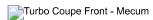


)

Via: Wassin

stylish, aerodynamic lines, added intercooler, and increased performance with the five-speed manual pushed this car over the edge of its predecessor.

Via: Maroum



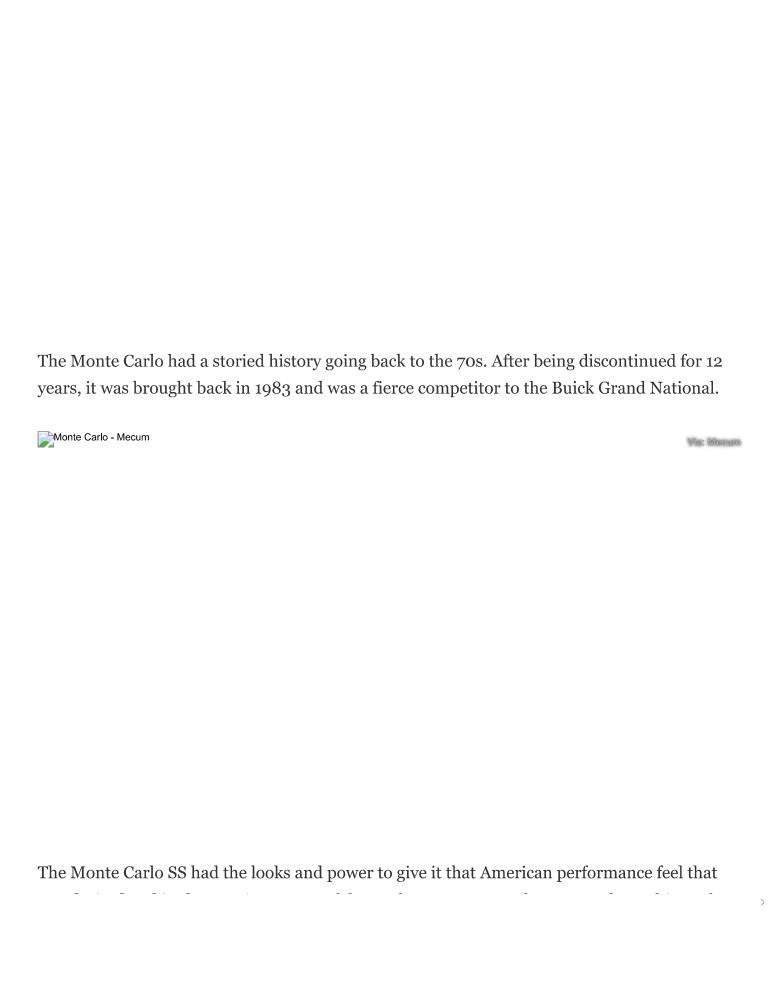
The 1987 model was named Motor Trend Car of the Year. The Turbo Coupe was a popular car with its quick and nimble performance, stylish exterior, and comfortable Thunderbird-style luxury interior. The Thunderbird changed its look with the 1989 model year for the next generation, and out went the Turbo Coupe. A select few remember how special this American performance car really was.

RELATED:

A Detailed Look Back At The Ford Thunderbird Turbo Coupe

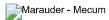
7 / 10

1983 - 1988 Chevy Monte Carlo SS

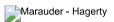


6 / 10

2003 - 2004 Mercury Marauder



The Marauder was another car revived from the 60s and 70s. This one was a beefier, upgraded version of the Grand Marquis. It had a lot of draw as a sporty performance family car.



>

Via: Hagariy

Via: Masum

The car was a head turner with the upgraded body package, wheels, and dual exhaust. There is a niche following of this version of the Marauder, but with very low sales, the car has been buried in history.

RELATED:

A Detailed Look Back At The Mercury Marauder

5 / 10

1984 - 1988 Pontiac Fiero



Via: Wereum

The <u>Pontiac Fiero</u> was a good American Performance car. It had a unique look that also slightly resembled several small foreign sports cars. It was not a powerful car compared to other American powerhouses, but it was quick and nimble and fun to drive.



The Fiero had great sales and had a good run spanning several years, until low sales finally put a nail in its coffin. The Fiero still pops up out on the roads today and is easily recognizable but it may never be the same as it was in its prime, thanks to the bad press and heavy media attention due to engine fires, poor reliability, and performance shortcomings.



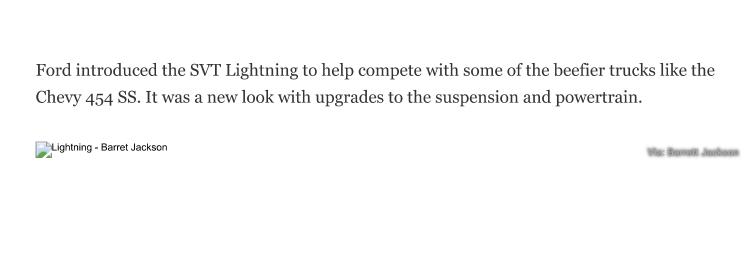
1993 - 1995 Ford SVT Lightning



>

Via: Marrin

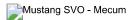
Via: Maronni



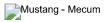
Ford Lightning for 2022 which has no relation to the SVT Lightning, leading to more dirt being thrown on the 1993-1995 SVT Lightnings' grave.

3 /10

1984 - 1986 Ford Mustang SVO



The SVO Mustang was introduced with fuel economy and emissions in mind, while still packing a punch with style and performance. The engine was a turbocharged 4-cylinder but still performed well compared to mid-80s standards.



)

Via: Weeum

Via: Marum

Although this version of the Mustang performed well and had the desired appearance of a traditional Mustang, gearheads had come to expect big engines and high power from their performance cars. Hardcore enthusiasts still remember this car, but the SVO Mustang has just been shuffled back in the deck of Mustangs built throughout history, bound to be forgotten.

RELATED:

These American Performance Cars Can't Handle Corners

2 /10

1990 35th Anniversary Ford Thunderbird Super Coupe

Super Coupe - Barrett Jackson

)

Via: Barrell Jankson

The Super Coupe replaced the popular, and also overlooked, Turbo Coupe. The Super Coupe touted a powerful and quick supercharged and intercooled V6 engine with a more aerodynamic body, including ground effects.

Wa: Marron



The 35th Anniversary Edition was unique with its black paint and wheels detailed with blue stripes down the side. It came with anniversary badges as well as special interior features to set it apart from the others. There were only 3,371 Anniversary Editions produced, making this version of the Thunderbird easily lost in the long history of Thunderbirds, and American performance cars.

1 / 10

1991 - 1993 GMC Typhoon

The GMC Typhoon is a hidden gem in American Performance car history. It was based off the GMC Jimmy SUV but packed with a highly modified turbocharged V6. It was basically a race car in an SUV body.

Typhoon - Mecum

amount of powerful new performance cars and SUVs on the market since its introduction, this car has sadly gone unrecognized. 10 Amazing German Sports Cars...And 9 American Cars That Beat Them READ NEXT > **Related Topics FAST CARS SPORTS CARS About The Author Vincent Muzzio** (5 Articles Published) Vincent has been an automotive enthusiast since being a kid growing up in Europe and Asia. With his time overseas coupled with years spent in the US, he has an appreciation for a variety of automobiles. When not... More From Vincent Muzzio →



Bill Gates' Car Collection Will Surprise You



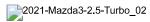
Tesla-Powered Shelby Cobra Is So Rowdy It'll Convert EV Haters



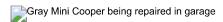


Lamborghini Huracan Performante Takes On A Nissan GT-R And Porsche Cayenne Turbo GT

How Car Thieves Are Using Apple AirTags To Steal Your Ride

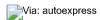


2021 Mazda 3: Costs, Facts, And Figures



Richard Hammond Made The Coolest Handrails For His New Shop Using Car Parts

READ NEXT IN AUTO PERFORMANCE



The Renault Twizy F1: An Extreme Version Of The City Vehicle Complete With F1 Tech

Ford Custom Rendering Featured Image

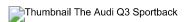
Stunning Render Showcases Wild 1932 Ford Custom Hot Rod



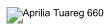
Here's How Much The 1970 Land Rover Range Rover Costs Today

Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor quarter front

Owner Plays Detective Digging Into Police Interceptor Crown Vic's History



This Is What Makes The Audi RS Q3 Sportback Distinctive



Years Ago Kawasaki Revealed The Z1	
ssan EV Single Seater Concept Featured Image	
ssan High-Performance Single Seater Gets Unlikely Inspiration: An Electri V	C
019 Chevy Camaro_1710x900	



Write For Us Home Contact Us Terms Privacy Copyright About Us Press Kit Fact Checking Policy

Corrections Policy Ethics Policy Ownership Policy

Copyright © 2021 www.hotcars.com

)