

Cars.com Names the Top 10 Most Iconic Cars

CHICAGO, Feb. 4, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- Cars.com, the leading online resource for buying and selling new and used cars, today released a list of the top 10 most iconic cars of the past 25 years. The site's experts compiled the list based on cars that set trends, have unusually expressive styling, performance under the hood and other factors that make these some of the most memorable cars to date.

"Aside from Hollywood, there's no industry that creates as many icons as the car business," said Patrick Olsen, Cars.com's Editor-in-Chief. "With so many to choose from, we decided to narrow our focus to cars from the past 25 years, and we looked at which cars truly made a statement." These 10 cars span a wide array of car types and styles, but the one thing they all have in common is the symbolic place they hold in automotive history. The Top 10 Most Iconic Cars and reasons for selection according to Cars.com experts are:

- **Toyota Prius (2004-2009):** No other car is more responsible for popularizing the green-driving movement than the second-generation Toyota Prius hybrid. The Prius' 46 combined mpg rating translates to lower fuel costs. There are plenty of hybrid competitors today, but the Prius paved the way for them all.
- **Mazda MX-5 Miata (1990-1997):** Ask a car person to name a small, sporty roadster that won't bust your budget and chances are good they'll say the Mazda MX-5 Miata. Whether you're looking for a fun convertible or an entertaining driving experience, the Miata has been a go-to source for years.
- **Volkswagen New Beetle (1998-2010):** The original VW Beetle has to be part of the conversation when considering the most iconic cars of *all time*, and its modern-day successor, the New Beetle, has managed to carve out its own niche as an icon by making retro design cool.
- **Ford Mustang (2005-2009):** Ford had a big swing and a miss with the retro-themed 2002 Thunderbird, but the automaker was considerably more successful with the fifth-generation Mustang, which brought a number of classic Mustang design cues back to Ford's long-running muscle car. It also opened the door for Chevrolet and Dodge to field retro-inspired competitors.
- **Dodge Viper RT/10 (1992-1995):** From its bold styling to its thumping V-10 engine, the first-generation Viper was both over-the-top and elemental, and few cars since have possessed its single-minded performance focus. Until the Viper, exotic performance cars had mainly hailed from the other side of the Atlantic, but that all changed with the Viper's debut.
- **Jeep Wrangler (1987-1995):** Jeep is an iconic American brand, and its most iconic model is the Wrangler, which to this day is still reminiscent of the original World War II jeeps. As the Wrangler has grown up, it's become more refined (especially in recent years), but it remains one of the purest expressions of off-road performance you can buy.
- **Mini Cooper (2002-2006):** A modern interpretation of the classic Mini, the Cooper was an entirely new, premium take on the small-car formula. Fun-to-drive, quirky and with seemingly endless ways to personalize it, the Mini Cooper showed that Americans weren't dead to the idea of small cars. It also countered another trend at the time that the next car on the list exemplifies.
- **Hummer H2 (2003-2009):** Before the Great Recession, bigger was definitely better in the car business, and there weren't many things bigger than the Hummer H2. A military-styled SUV built on GM's full-size truck platform, the H2 was a rolling salute to conspicuous consumption. What it wasn't, was efficient, and when gas prices hit the \$4 mark, the tough-truck fad faded, and the H2 -- along with the entire Hummer brand -- met its demise.
- **Ford Explorer (1991-1994):** No other vehicle is as responsible for bringing SUVs into the mainstream as the Ford Explorer. It gave families that had been packed into practical but boring minivans, wagons and sedans the rugged looks and go-anywhere capability of a truck, along with room for lots of passengers and cargo.
- **Pontiac Aztek (2001-2005):** Few cars have been ridiculed as mercilessly as the Pontiac Aztek. It's been the biggest punch line in the automotive world since its debut at the dawn of the new millennium, but this has also elevated it to iconic status. Its car-based, unibody construction foreshadowed the now-popular crossover segment.

More information on iconic cars and other Top 10's can be found [here](#) or at http://blogs.cars.com/kickingtires/top_10s/.

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