

MONITOR Motoring

Ford Motor Company: The 1987 Lineup



AFFORDABLE PERFORMANCE FOR 1987—The Ford Escort GT (top) and Escort EXP (bottom) feature a 1.9 liter, multiple-port fuel injected, high-output engine designed for performance and economy.

1986 will probably be called the year of Ford. This is not hype. The company introduced two entirely new vehicles that stood the industry on its proverbial ear. We are referring, of course, to Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable.

The success of these cars was evidently a contributing factor in Ford's posting a profit in excess of General Motors. Perhaps a financial aberration,

but a verifiable one.

Under the circumstances, what can Ford do for an encore? Read on, and we'll try to answer that question.

Ford Division

Taurus

Recipient of the 1986 *Motor Trend*

magazine's "Car of the Year" award, Taurus takes a bow for 1987. The car retains the various standard and optional features responsible for its success.

Available as sedan and wagon, Taurus models are base L, GL, sporty MT-5 and the top-line LX. Standard powerplant on all sedans except LX is a 2.5 liter EFI engine. A smooth and

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powerful 3.0 liter MFI V-6 handles the motive requirements of LX sedan and all wagons.

Significant aspects of Taurus are four-wheel independent suspension, extended range fuel tank, electronic instrumentation and Insta-clear windshield.

Although some owners reported early difficulties with the electronic engine management system, the car has generally received praise for its overall production quality.

Tempo

MONITOR Motoring predicts that Ford will have the appreciation of owners in those areas of the U.S. prone to snow, ice and other inclement weather. This is because the company has added All-Wheel-Drive (AWD) to Tempo and sister car Topaz. AWD can be engaged while the car is in motion, and is intended only for use when the going gets rough.

Another unique feature of Tempo is the drive-side air bag, the only U.S. produced car besides Topaz so equipped. Power is provided via a 2.3 liter EFI four-cylinder engine. Models are GL, Sport GL, LX and AWD. Tempo is offered in 2- and 4-door configurations.

Thunderbird

Taurus notwithstanding, Thunderbird has got to be Ford's star car in '87, especially the Turbo Coupe. A redesigned front end and a 1/4" height reduction gives the car a longer, lower look. Changes to Turbo Coupe's mechanicals and aesthetics are enough to qualify it as a completely new vehicle.

First, the horsepower on the 2.3 liter MFI turbo four-cylinder has been increased from 155 to 190—the result of new for '87 inter-cooling and low-restriction dual exhausts. These figures apply to 5-speed manual equipped cars only.

Second, handling has been im-