

1999 Porsche premieres

the new 911 Turbo at the IAA in Frankfurt. The high-end model is also available with the five-speed Tiptronic S transmission. Porsche also introduces the Porsche Ceramic Composite Brake (PCCB), a worldwide first.

2000 The Carrera GT

preproduction study celebrates its world premiere in Paris. The production version of this supercar is introduced three years later in Geneva. By the time it is phased out in 2006, 1,270 units have been produced.

2002 Guests at the official

dedication of Porsche Leipzig GmbH are treated to a surprise presentation of the Cayenne SUV, which is shown here even before its official world premiere.

2005 One of the highlights

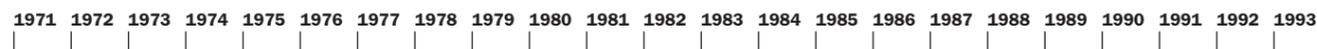
at the IAA in Frankfurt is the Porsche Cayman S, a mid-engine sports car positioned between the Boxster and the 911.

2005 Porsche announces

a fourth model series, the four-seat grand touring Panamera, which is scheduled for production in Leipzig starting in 2009.



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'08

Love's Future

By Wolfgang Peters

Men, machines, memories—through the decades, the passion for Porsche has been shaped by personal experiences. It's a wonderful time in the new millennium, with the Cayenne GTS.

The Cayenne GTS makes little crackling sounds as it cools down beneath an olive tree that was already providing shade here a hundred years ago. The "Route Napoleon" is where this family is heading. Napoleon's route (on his return from Elba) was programmed into the Cayenne the evening before—a 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) southbound trip. The father would have liked to drive his 50-year-old Speedster, or his 911, or the Boxster he usually drives to the office. But it was best to leave them in the barn. The Cayenne GTS arrived just in time to be broken in for the trip, and to have the family get used to it. This current version of the model series is really hot, living up to its name.

It's an impressive vehicle throughout, and the engineering has been tightened further and focused even more on driving dynamics. Every detail exudes a quality and intelligent swiftness that have been the hallmark of the brand for 60 years. A sports car for the family, cats, and rabbits, and for Bosco. The big dog has been sleeping behind the rear seats in his niche between the pockets, and is now climbing somewhat stiffly from the GTS into the southern air suffused by sunshine, dust, and the aroma of salami. He then shakes himself so vigorously that his ears fly about and his fur ripples across his body.

Bosco came to love the GTS after the first few kilometers. It rapidly became his second home. A vehicle that provides not only space on wheels but also an ample supply of forward energy, the power that turns high mountain passes into easy passages and

provides an effortless kind of mobility. But this family is in no hurry. The father, who patiently waited for his own father in the shadow of a chestnut tree 50 years ago, has learned that you can't own or distribute time. Its content is transient and the future begins every time the engine starts, he tells his son and daughter. He takes some fresh mineral water and a bottle of light summer wine from the cooler, and breaks the baguette from the baker in the valley, cuts some sausage and cheese, and gazes thoughtfully at the dark red Cayenne, which is still crackling a little as it cools down.

He didn't need to buy an off-road-capable vehicle. If he had to tackle the rough terrain in the woods he would borrow his neighbor's tractor. A Lanz with wheels as big as a door, tall enough for a grown man to walk through without stooping. His Cayenne GTS is a sports and travel machine. It is made for long distances, he tells himself, and remembers rides in the Spessart and the Villgraten Valley and the gorges near Draguignan and the snow in the Stubai Valley with skis, backpacks, and ski boots, and something about parasols and a case of wine, and at that point the father is getting some things mixed up. He collects his thoughts, and glances from his wife, who is seated with her back against the trunk of a birch tree, to the meadow where Bosco is playing with the children, and his gaze caresses his Cayenne.

His mind wanders and recounts the progression of Porsches that have accompanied him in the course of his life up to now. The most important of these was the 911 Cabriolet. Through the sparse foliage of the birch tree, a fine sunbeam touches the drowsing father, and he is certain that the open 911 is the real point of departure into the future for Porsche, though he knows not everyone would agree with him. In that car the company showed its commitment to the future. Just as it did later in the first Boxster that he loved. And then, in 2002, the big step to the Cayenne. He was sold on it when he first saw it—almost, but not quite. Then he found that the GTS version embodied a higher level of performance.

On this sunny day by the edge of Napoleon's route, it seems to him that his personal assessment of Porsche isn't complete yet. He'll have to wait a bit longer. Perhaps he'll get a chance to experience the next Porsche. One unlike any other before. But the people in Stuttgart would have to hurry a bit, his wife told him. The father has nodded off and been talking some in his sleep. She is reminding him that he is past 60. And she adds that she and the Cayenne will keep him young enough. Then he looks at his GTS again with a sense of serenity, and discovers in it all of the Porsches he has driven in the past 50 years. ◀



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