



# 60

## YEARS

*of innovation*



**CORVETTE**

SINCE 1953



# 60 YEARS



**C1**  
1953-1962

1953

The first full-scale Corvette concept is displayed as a "dream car" at GM's Motorama in New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel in January 1953

On June 30, 1953, (six months after the GM Motorama debut) the first production Corvette rolls off the assembly line in Flint, Michigan

1955

The small block V8 displacing 265 cubic inches is introduced. Also, a 3-speed manual transmission is made available

1956

The restyled Corvette features exposed headlamps, sculpted side covers (cove sides) and roll-up windows. Factory-installed removable hardtops are offered for the first time

1958

Highlighting the "what's new" for the 1958 Corvette are dual headlamps, with separate high- and low-beam lamps. Additional design changes include a lowered hood and two chrome trunk strips. Engine hp is now as high as 290, and the increase in power is reflected in a 160-mph speedometer

1962

Corvette's last year with exposed headlamps (until they returned in 2005), a solid rear axle and a trunk opening. For the first time since 1955, Corvettes are offered in solid colors only



**C2**  
1963-1967

1967

Standard features of the 1967 Corvette Sting Ray include an energy-absorbing steering column, four-way hazard warning flashers and a dual master cylinder brake system. Much of the exterior trim is removed or restyled, as well as the hood and fender vents

1966

Factory-installed driver/passenger headrests make their Corvette debut as optional equipment in 1966. First year for the 427 cid engine; up to 425 hp available

1964

The split-window design of 1963 was eliminated on 1964 coupes; it "intruded into the driver's rearward vision." Other modifications to simplify the design, such as removing the simulated hood vents, are made

1963

The 1963 Corvette is a total restyle based on Bill Mitchell's 1959 Sting Ray race car



**C3**  
1968-1982

1968

The totally restyled 1968 Corvette features an industry first for production cars – "T-top" removable roof panels. Lines of the new Corvette closely resemble those of the Mako Shark II show car. Headlamps are now of the "pop-up" design; backlite (rear window) is removable

1969

The 250,000th Corvette – a gold 1969 convertible – comes off the St. Louis production line November 19, 1969. "Stingray" script is added above the fender louvers. Options include wider wheel rims (8 inches) and a headlamp washer

1970

The ZR-1 optional factory-installed racing package is offered on Corvette for the first time. Side louvers replace the slotted fender vents; fender flares are added

1977

The 500,000th Corvette – a white 1977 coupe with red interior – is produced in St. Louis on March 15, 1977. Interior is restyled to include a new console for temperature controls, a more forward placement of the steering wheel (for easier entry and exit), and standard leather seats

1978

The fastback body style marks Corvette's 25th year of production. The traditional crossed-flag emblem is replaced with a special anniversary emblem. The special edition of the Corvette is the Indy 500 Pace Car replica – silver and black

1982

1982 is the first Corvette model year to feature the convenience of hatchback design (introduced with the Collector's Edition model). 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive is standard, with no manual transmission offered. Special Collector Edition features a special color scheme, special wheels and hubs, standard rear defogger and power antenna



**C4**  
1984-1996

1996

Two unique special Corvette models are available for 1996 – a Collector Edition and a Grand Sport. The Collector Edition features Sebring Silver paint, the Collector Edition emblems and an LT1 engine. The Grand Sport has blue metallic paint with a white stripe and red "hash marks" on the left-front fender with an LT4 engine under the hood

1995

Corvette paces the Indy 500 for the third time (first in 1978, also in 1986)

1992

Performance of the 1992 Corvette's new 300-horsepower 5.7-liter V8 is so impressive that it's given the legendary LT1 designation. The one millionth Corvette – a white convertible with red interior, matching the first Corvette – rolls off the Bowling Green, Kentucky, assembly line on July 2, 1992

1990

The Corvette ZR-1 debuts in 1990. Driver air bag becomes a standard feature. Groundbreaking begins at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, in June 1990

1985

Big news for Corvette in 1985 is the addition of tuned-port injection on the 230-horsepower 5.7-liter V8

1984

The all-new Corvette has a drag coefficient of 0.34 – that's 24 percent more aerodynamic than its predecessor



**C5**  
1997-2004

1997

The 1997 Corvette features hydroformed side frame rails, each made of a single piece of tubular steel

1999

A hardtop model, with permanently fixed roof panel and external trunk lid, joins the Corvette family in 1999. The LSI V8 engine in the 1999 Corvette delivers 345 hp

2001

The Z06 is introduced for 2001 with a 385-horsepower LS6 V8, with a top speed of over 170 mph. New front fascia grilles improve airflow to the engine air inlet

2002

Z06 performance reaches another plateau for 2002 with the infusion of another 20 hp – for 405 total – and 15 lb.-ft. more torque – for a total of 400. The 2002 Corvette comes standard with Active Handling and Traction Control systems

2003

50th Anniversary of the Corvette is marked by the availability of a 50th Anniversary package with special red paint, a unique two-tone shale interior, special emblems and Magnetic Selective Ride Control™

2004

Available special commemorative package honoring Corvette's success at Le Mans



**C6**  
2005-Present

2013

Chevrolet introduces the 427 Convertible – the fastest, most capable Corvette convertible ever. The best of Z06 and ZR1 in a convertible – with the iconic 505-hp LS7 engine, lightweight carbon fiber and magnetorheological shocks

2010

Return of the Grand Sport model which includes the base LS3 engine and elements of the discontinued Z51 performance option. Side air bags standard on all models

2009

Debut of the new Corvette ZR1 powered by a supercharged 6.2L V8 which produces 638 hp and has a top speed of 205 mph

2008

Powered by a new LS3 6.2L base V8 engine, Performance increased from 400 hp to 430 hp. Green E85 Z06 paced the Indy 500

2006

Complete redesign of the Z06 after a one-year absence. Had an aluminum frame, fixed magnesium-supported top panel, magnesium engine cradle and carbon fiber appointments. Powered by a new 7.0L (427 cid) small block V8 that produced 505 hp and 470 lb.-ft. of torque. 6-speed paddle shift automatic transmission introduced

2005

All-new design and engineering. Powered by the new 6.0L 400-hp small block V8. Exposed headlights return for the first time since 1962. Power top option for convertibles for the first time since 1962. OnStar™ available for the first time

# NO PIT STOPS