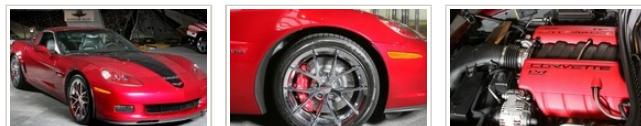


CLEVELAND AUTO SHOW



Oh god no — please Chevy, don't go down Mustang Road. We're really hoping Corvette's not heading down the same road as the Ford pony car — with random "limited-production" runs hitting the stage of random small-market auto shows. But then we see this number straight from the Ford playbook — the 2008 Corvette 427 Limited Edition Z06. This new 'vette, unveiled at the Cleveland Auto Show (we mean Cleveland rocks, but who knew?) is supposed to pay homage to the big-block Stingray from the mid-1960's with the "427" signifying the cubic-inch displacement of the biggest of the big-blocks offered between 1966 and 1969 and also happens to be the cubic-inch equivalent of the Z06's 7.0-liter small-block V8. Yup, nothing says big-block like big small blocks. But what else makes this here Z06 special? Nothing really. Well, not nothing, but can we really count Crystal Red Tintcoat paint? Yes, it may be the first Z06 ever offered with a red metallic tintcoat paint — but does it need it's own model to do it? Perhaps not. Full press release detailing all the new details — like "427" stitching on the seats and the fact they'll only build 505 of them (nice HP reference) with only 427 of them available in the U.S. — from the General below the jump. Did we mention "427" may be the mark of the devil? Just sayin'...

Better Dead Than Red



***Chevrolet's Special '427 Limited Edition Z06'
Salutes Classic 427 Corvettes***

DETROIT - Chevrolet announced the 2008 Corvette 427 Limited Edition Z06, a limited-production model that pays homage to the big-block Stingray models of the mid-1960s. The 427 designation refers to the cubic-inch displacement for the highest-performance engines offered between 1966 and '69 - and is also the cubic-inch equivalent of the Z06's 7.0L LS7 small-block V-8.

The 427 Limited Edition Z06 features a Crystal Red Tintcoat exterior, the first Z06 ever offered with a red metallic tintcoat paint. It also features graphics on the hood and fascia that evoke the style of the famed "stinger" hood design and graphics that were offered with 1967 models equipped with the 427 engine. Also unique to this model are "427" hood badges. Each example is numbered and signed by Wil Cooksey, the Corvette assembly plant manager who is retiring after 15 years on the job, and comes with a certificate of authenticity.

"The heritage of the 427 designation with the Corvette is legendary," said Harlan Charles, Corvette product manager. "Recognizing the tie-in of the original 427 engine and the LS7's 427-inch displacement has been on the Corvette team's mind since the Z06 was introduced, and we're thrilled to express it in this special model."

Available under order code Z44, this special Z06 enters production this spring. Only 427 will be offered in the United States and Canada, with 78 more exported outside North America. That's a total of 505 production vehicles - the same number of horsepower produced by the LS7 engine.

The special-edition Corvette carries a MSRP of \$84,195 and includes the 3LZ premium equipment package with a custom, leather-wrapped interior. A navigation system is the only option (\$1,750). As

with other Corvette models, customer delivery is available at the Corvette Museum, in Bowling Green, Ky.

A breakdown of the 427 Limited Edition Z06's unique content includes:

- * Crystal Red Tintcoat exterior paint with stinger-style graphics and 427 hood badges*
- * Exclusive, new chrome wheels*
- * Body-color rear spoiler and door handles*
- * Exclusive dark titanium custom leather-wrapped interior*
- * Special Crystal Red interior trim plate graphic pattern*
- * Console armrest signed and numbered by Wil Cooksey*
- * "427"-embroidered seats and floor mats*
- * "Z06" sill plates*

The 427 Limited Edition Z06 joins the Indy 500 Pace Car replica - available in coupe and convertible configurations - as the second limited-production Corvette model introduced for 2008, giving enthusiasts and collectors a wealth of choices. In January, Chevrolet also announced the 2009 Corvette ZR1, which enters production later this summer.

"There's never been a better time to be a Corvette enthusiast," said Charles. "The performance and refinement are exemplary and special editions, like the 427 model, enrich the heritage of America's sports car."

Corvette Z06 details

The Corvette Z06 that is the foundation for the 427 Limited Edition offers carefully executed levels of capability and technology, making it one of the best performance values on the market.

The Z06's LS7 7.0L engine reintroduced the 427-cubic-inch engine to the Corvette lineup. It uses

racing-derived lightweight technology, including titanium connecting rods and intake valves, to help boost horsepower and rpm capability - it is rated at 505 horsepower (377 kW). The only transmission offered with the Z06 is a six-speed manual.*

In the car's 3,162-pound (1,437 kg) package, the LS7 engine helps deliver 0-60 mph performance of 3.7 seconds in first gear, quarter-mile times of 11.7 seconds at 125 mph and a top speed of 198 mph (as recorded on Germany's Autobahn) - the Z06 also circuited Germany's famed Nürburgring racetrack in a time of 7:43.

The Z06 has a unique aluminum body structure for optimum stiffness and light weight for the fixed-roof body style. Perimeter rails are one-piece hydroformed aluminum members featuring cast suspension nodes, which replace many welded steel components on other Corvette models. Advanced structural composites featuring carbon fiber are bonded to the aluminum structure. Wider front wheelhouses, for example, are carbon composites and the passenger compartment floors combine carbon-fiber skins with an ultra-lightweight balsa wood core.

A firm, race-proven suspension works harmoniously with large 18 x 9.5-inch cast-spun aluminum wheels and 275/35ZR18 tires in the front, and 19 x 12-inch cast-spun aluminum wheels with 325/30ZR19 tires in the rear to achieve lateral acceleration of more than 1 g. Complementing the suspension system and large rolling stock is an equally capable four-wheel disc brake system, consisting of 14-inch (355 mm) vented and cross-drilled front rotors and 13.4-inch (340 mm) vented and cross-drilled rear rotors.

The front rotors are acted upon by large, red-painted six-piston calipers that use six individual brake pads. Individual brake pads are used because they deliver more equalized wear compared to what would otherwise be a pair of very long single-piece pads. For the rear brakes, four-piston calipers with four

individual brake pads are used. A Delphi four-channel ABS system is standard, as is a very competent active handling system - complete with a Competitive Driving mode.

History of the Corvette and the 427 engine

The Chevrolet Mark IV V-8 debuted in the Corvette in 1965 and was dubbed the big-block, because it was physically larger in all respects than Chevy's other V-8 engine, which became known as the small-block. In '65, the big-block was offered in a 396-cubic-inch displacement, with a maximum rating of 425 gross horsepower (317 kW). In 1966, the big-block received larger cylinder bores and grew to its legendary 427-cubic-inch form. It came in two power levels: 390 hp (291 kW) and 425 hp.

By 1967, the Corvette's 427 engine was a legend in its own time and was offered with a unique induction system that featured an inline trio of two-barrel carburetors. Known as the "L71" (its order code), it was characterized by a large, chrome triangular air cleaner assembly. It was rated at 435 gross horsepower (324 kW). The '67 big-block Corvettes were easily distinguished from their small-block brethren by a raised "stinger" hood.

A handful of Corvettes with the "L88"-code 427 engine slipped out of the factory in 1967, each rated at 430 horsepower (321 kW), but the L88 would be more closely associated with the redesigned 1968 and '69 models. The L88 breathed through a single four-barrel carburetor rather than the L71's three two-barrels. The triple-carburetor induction system was still available, however, as the Corvette was offered with both the L88 and L71 versions of the 427.

No less than six versions of the engine were offered in 1969, the final year for the 427. They included the L88, the L71 and a very rare ZL1 427 that was built with a lightweight aluminum cylinder block. Only two regular-production Corvettes were built with the ZL1

engine, putting them on the short list of the most collectible Corvettes in history.

The big-block increased in size to 454 cubic inches in 1970, and the original big-block engine family exited the Corvette lineup after the 1974 model year. The 2008 Corvette Z06's LS7 engine offers big-block displacement and horsepower, but in a more efficient small-block architecture.

**SAE certified.*