



AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION DES JOURNALISTES AUTOMOBILE DU CANADA

FINALISTS IN TIGHT RACE FOR TOP HONOURS AJAC's 2017 Canadian Car of the Year Awards

Data Driven by Canadian Expertise

2017 Canadian Car of the Year and 2017 Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Montreal, Quebec – Thursday, January 19, 2017

January 19, 2017 – Montreal: The Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) announced today the top three finalists in two overall award categories that comprise part of the association's Canadian Car of the Year awards program, which is now in its 32nd year.

The top 3 finalists vying for the 2017 Canadian Car of the Year title, to be declared on Thursday, February 16, 2017, are (in alphabetical order):

BMW M2
Hyundai Elantra
Volkswagen Golf (Alltrack)

The 2017 Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year will also be declared on February 16th. The top three finalists in this category are (in alphabetical order):

Chrysler Pacifica
Mercedes-Benz GLC 300 4MATIC
Subaru Forester

Eight "Best New" category winners were eligible for the top honours of Canadian Car of the Year and Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year after they were announced on December 6, 2016. Hyundai was a double winner, and other category winners included Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, Buick, Subaru, BMW and Chrysler. The eight "Best New" categories cover the full new-model spectrum, including Best New Small Car, Best New Sports/Performance Car, and Best New Utility Vehicle. Most of these core categories are then further broken down into Small, Large and Premium to cover a wide range of types of vehicles.

The category winners represent the voting results by the largest group of Canada's best-known automotive journalists, who gathered this October in Clarington, Ontario for a four-day test-drive evaluation of brand-new or significantly changed models. The event, known as "TestFest," was hosted by Canadian Tire Motorsport Park.

"TestFest is the most intensive new-vehicle evaluation process on the planet," said Gary Grant, co-chair of the Canadian Car of the Year committee. "No other organization employs such stringent testing methods to determine its award winners."

The rigorous testing program includes real-world driving on public roads, exactly where consumers drive, so the test data and vote results are directly relevant to potential car and utility vehicle buyers. The results are not based on the personal opinion of just one or two journalists. Instead, over 60 automotive journalists each drove vehicles in their categories back-to-back on the same day, under the same conditions, to ensure fair and objective comparisons.

"Our program is absolutely testing-based," said Justin Pritchard, co-chair of the Canadian Car of the Year committee. "We have experienced vehicle testers driving dozens of vehicles, back to back, over the course of several days. This testing process generated **1,384** test drives, producing over **100,000** data points and **1,058** category ballots. It's important to note that every aspect of this testing data is shared online via our website, so shoppers can see how any given vehicle won its category, or how it stacked up to the category winner."

Data driven and Canadian expertise: That's what makes an AJAC winner.

PRESS ROOM FOR MEDIA: You didn't have to be at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park for the Canadian Car of the Year Awards program in order to produce media coverage of the event. AJAC has set up a virtual press room online where you may peruse and download the following:

PHOTOS: the process of evaluating 150 vehicles back-to-back at TestFest is captured in photographs.

VIDEO: B-roll of the 5 day event as well as short 90-second videos, ideal for YouTube

AERIAL VIEW: Drone footage of the event from the sky.

QUOTES & TESTIMONIALS: Comments from our journalists on the cars, trucks, and SUVs driven at TestFest.

FACT SHEET: Including recent press releases.

Link is: <http://ajac.ca/web/ccoty/pressroom.asp>

For further information about AJAC, its annual "TestFest, and the Canadian Car of the Year Awards, please contact Allie Marsh, AJAC Manager, Events & Operations, 289.213.9084, e: allie@ajac.ca
