



News Release

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 7X Pantera, a new show car from Ford Motor Company's Ghia design studios and workshops in Italy, is a refined version of the current Pantera L now sold in the United States and Europe.

"The new Pantera exhibit vehicle is the first complete reworking of the Pantera since we introduced the car in 1971," said Gene Bordinat, vice president - Design.

"Our Ghia designers revisited the Pantera and came up with ideas that could be applied to a new generation of the car. We think a production car like the 7X Pantera would continue the Pantera tradition of superb performance from an exotic road machine. Further, it would give greater satisfaction in terms of function as well as being responsive to expected government safety and emissions standards in years to come."

The 7X Pantera is based on the chassis and under-the-surface body panels of the current Pantera. But beyond that, it's another car. All exterior sheet metal, except for doors, is new. The sweeping roofline uses a cantilevered open pillar to the rear, providing great strength while affording excellent visibility. The front and rear integrated bumper systems, shown in metal on the exhibit vehicle, are designed to be built of deformable urethane if put into production. The engine compartment is planned so it can accommodate the company's 400-cubic-inch engine, engineered to meet the stringent California emission requirements for 1975.

"The Ghia design accomplishment is all the greater," Mr. Bordinat noted, "when it's recognized that the vehicle is a notable advance both in appearance and function, while working within the constraints of carryover major components."

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To achieve the car, engineers and designers made more than 30 modifications to the engine, chassis and frame of the current Pantera. The cantilevered rear roof pillar design provides better cooling and ventilation of the midships engine compartment, and the engine placement is more explicitly shown than in production Pantera models. The dark brown central roof pillar, in matte finish and decorated with a stylized Panther symbol, has an integral, functional air extraction system. Similarly, improved air intake grilles, also dark brown, are located outboard on the upper hood surface just forward of the windshield.

The anti-theft rear deck release is located on the inside surface of the door post alongside the driver. Trunk space is improved and new, larger taillights embellish the rear of the car.

The 7X Pantera is painted a brilliant orange. The interior components trimmed in super soft glove leather, are light beige and dark brown. The 7X Pantera is built on a 98.4 inch wheelbase. Overall length is 176.5 inches, just 1.2 inches longer than the current Pantera. Overall width of 71.3 inches and overall height of 44.4 inches are the same as today's Pantera.

Specially designed "Arriva" tires, offered in the U.S. only on Pantera, are used on the 7X Pantera. 060-15 size is used on the front 7-inch rims and the H60-15 size is used on the rear 8-inch rims. Since introduction in 1971, more than 3,500 Panteras have been sold by selected Lincoln-Mercury dealers in the U.S. Almost 1,000 have been sold in Europe.

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