



# Thunderbird

Thunderbird was known to the Southwest American Indian tribes as *'the god who brings rain and prosperity'*. The car was inspired by the 2-seater European sports cars of the post-war era and was brought in by Ford in direct competition to the Chevrolet Corvette. The car was unveiled at the 1954 Detroit motor show and started production in 1955.

The car had the same wheelbase as the Corvette but was fitted with a Mercury V8 engine. Bringing together European style and American comfort at an affordable price proved an irresistible combination. For each Corvette sold in 1955, 24 Thunderbirds were shipped.

In 1958 Ford adopted a four-seater design for the T'bird (as it became affectionately known). This helped to boost sales over the next few years. In 1961, the third-generation car came in the cigar-shaped body and despite the adoption of the 6.4 litre big-block engine, it was now more of a luxury cruiser than a sports car. Hard tops outsold convertibles by 8:1.

Throughout the many design changes and model updates, there have been many distinctive features incorporated into the car's design including the large chrome surrounded front grill, bonnet air intake, porthole rear windows, and circular rear lights.

Many of these features have been incorporated into the new model which Ford hails as: 'A truly modern rendering of the original American Dream Car'. It certainly is a fine looking tribute to a great motoring heritage. Why not check it out at:

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