

Leasing News & Automotive Views

2007 BMW 3 Series hardtop convertibles

Pop the top and go



For BMW fans, the wait is finally over. This spring, the BMW 328i and 335i sedans are now available with a first-ever retractable hardtop. Made of lightweight steel and operated by a hydraulic system, the three-piece roof opens in just 22 seconds and folds smoothly into the rear compartment of BMW's newest convertibles.

Because there are no conventional B-pillars, the feeling of open-air driving can still be achieved with just the side windows opened. The rear window is fixed glass with an electric defroster for safety and convenience. The rear and side windows are 30 percent larger than their predecessors, offering improved rear visibility.

New inline 6-cylinder engines that are more powerful and lighter than their predecessors power 3 Series Convertibles. The 328i Convertible's 3.0-liter turbine-smooth powerplant produces 230 hp at 6,500 rpm. The 335i Convertible is powered by BMW's first turbocharged gasoline engine in over 20 years, featuring twin turbochargers and High Precision direct fuel injection that generate 300 hp. The twin turbochargers build up pressure much faster than a single, large turbocharger, helping to boost performance significantly while eliminating even the slightest response lag. The front turbocharger feeds cylinders 1-3; the rear unit delivers super-compressed air to

cylinders 4-6. Both sedans come equipped with a 6-speed manual transmission or an optional 6-speed STEPTRONIC automatic transmission.

The 3 Series Convertibles are the first cars to use sun-reflective technology to mitigate temperatures on leather seating, armrest surfaces, headrests, and gear shifter. The process uses modified color pigments imbedded in the leather during the production process to reflect the infrared radiation of the sun. This new leather treatment is able to reduce surface temperatures on dark interior colors by up to 36 degrees Fahrenheit, and light-colored upholstery by as much as 27 degrees Fahrenheit. All other qualities of the leather remained unchanged.

An optional navigation system features BMW's iDrive system to control the navigation, climate, entertainment and communications functions. A new monitor in the instrument panel automatically adjusts to ambient light conditions. The system includes six Programmable Memory Keys on the dashboard to simplify iDrive operation and control. Two additional new keys allow quick access to AM or FM radio stations and control the music source. The remaining six keys can be programmed for favorite items such as navigation destinations, radio stations or even telephone numbers.

Driving with the top down in a BMW 3 Series Convertible brings a whole new experience to open-air driving. Don't let the summer go by without you behind the wheel. Give us a call and we'll match you with the model right for your driving desires.



2007 Honda CR-V

Looks go far beyond its entry level price



seats and armrests, heated front seats, body-colored heated side mirrors and door handles, and an available Honda Satellite-Linked Navigation with Voice Recognition™ and rearview camera.

If it's possible for a car to be a chameleon, then the 2007 Honda CR-V must be that vehicle. The 2007 CR-V has an entirely new body design, and with a passing glance can easily be mistaken for a BMW X3 or Acura MDX. The 2007 CR-V is available in three trim levels – the well-equipped LX, the fully-featured EX and the upscale EX-L.

The CR-V's exterior width has increased by 1.4 inches to 71.6 inches while the body length has decreased by 3.1 inches (due mostly to the relocation of the spare tire from the rear bumper to underneath the rear cargo area). A highly rigid body and fully independent suspension result in a quiet cabin and smooth, agile handling performance. The 2.4-liter i-VTEC 4-cylinder engine and standard 5-speed automatic transmission provide an excellent balance of power (166-horsepower) and fuel economy (EPA-rated 23/30 city/highway mpg, 2WD).

The base CR-V LX model, also available with Honda's Real Time 4WD™ system, includes an anti-lock braking system with Electronic Brake Distribution and Brake Assist, Vehicle Stability Assist with traction control, 17-inch steel wheels, Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), front side airbags with passenger-side Occupant Position Detection System, side curtain airbags with rollover sensor, daytime running lights (DRL), Maintenance Minder system, air conditioning with air-filtration system, power windows, programmable power door locks, power side mirrors, retractable center tray table, upper and lower glove compartments, under-seat storage bin, 60/40 split sliding fold and tumble rear seats, and a remote entry system.

CR-V EX adds a one-touch power moonroof with tilt feature, rear privacy glass, security system, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, exterior temperature indicator, 17-inch alloy wheels and more.

CR-V EX-L further adds leather trimmed

EX and above models also contain an additional 12V power outlet. On EX and EX-L models, a dual-deck cargo shelf provides additional storage options in the cargo area that can hold up to 20 pounds, while providing enough clearance underneath for grocery bags or items such as a folded stroller.

For 2007, all audio systems are more powerful with at least 160 watts (LX, EX). Auxiliary audio input jacks are standard equipment on all trim levels, allowing for portable music device playback through the audio system. Each audio system also features MP3/WMA CD playback capability and Speed-sensitive Volume Control (SVC) that automatically adjusts the volume based on vehicle speed. The LX trim level has a four-speaker 160-watt audio system with a single-disc CD player. The EX and EX-L add two speakers (tweeters) and an in-dash 6-disc CD changer (console-mounted on navigation-equipped models). XM Satellite Radio is standard on the EX-L. The EX-L with Navigation audio system increases power output to 270 Watts and delivers sound through seven speakers, including a sub-woofer.

If you are looking for an SUV that's easy to drive, great on fuel economy and very reliable, it's time to consider the 2007 Honda CR-V.

Tidbits

Presidential Limousine Challenge

Like it or not, the race for the White House is on. So we decided to take a look at the vehicles used by past U.S. presidents. See if you can pass our challenge. Answers can be found below.

1. On December 8, 1941, in the wake of Pearl Harbor, the Secret Service drove Franklin D. Roosevelt to Congress to deliver his famous "Day will live in infamy" speech in a limousine originally belonging to what Prohibition-era gangster:
a. Tom Powers **b.** John Dillinger
c. Al Capone **d.** Paddy Ryan
2. Which president was the first to ride in a Cadillac:
a. Dwight Eisenhower (1953-1961)
b. Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)
c. Harry Truman (1945-1953)
d. John F. Kennedy (1961-1963)
3. The first U.S. president to ride in an automobile, a Pierce-Arrow limousine, going to and from his inaugural ball was:
a. William McKinley (1897-1901)
b. Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909)
c. William Howard Taft (1909-1913)
a. Warren Harding (1921-1923)
4. The 2006 Presidential Limousine is a hand-crafted and armored version of which Cadillac model:
a. Eldorado **b.** DTS **c.** Escalade **d.** CTS

Answers: 1-c, 2-b, 3-a, 4-b



2007 Toyota Tundra

Made specifically for the American market

Toyota thinks it has an answer for drivers of pickup trucks with the introduction of the 2007 Toyota Tundra. The 2007 Tundra is available in 31 model configurations, three cab styles, three wheelbases, three bed lengths, three engines, and three trim levels. It can be easily configured to serve as a work truck, recreational truck, or luxury family truck.

Cab styles for Tundra include Regular Cab, four-door Double Cab, and super-sized four-door CrewMax with sliding and reclining rear seats and 44.5 inches of rear legroom. Tundra Regular Cab and Double Cab models are offered in a standard bed (78.7-inches) or long bed (97.9-inches) configurations; the CrewMax comes with a short bed (66.7-inches). In all models, the bed measures 22.2 inches deep. A Deck Rail System, standard on Limited grade models and available on all others, adds adjustable tie-down cleats connected to the rails of the all-steel bed with a 220 lbs. rating per attachment.



The 2007 Tundra offers three levels of power. In Regular and Double Cab models, a standard 4.0-liter V6 produces 236 horsepower at 5,200 rpm and a healthy 266 lb.-ft. of peak torque. The mid-grade option for these vehicles – and standard for the CrewMax models – is an enhanced version of the proven 4.7-liter i-Force V8 producing 271 hp at 5,400 rpm and 313 lb.-ft. of peak torque. Also available in every model is an all-new 5.7-liter i-Force V8 that delivers 381 hp at 5,600 rpm and an impressive 401-lb.-ft. of peak torque. The Tow Package, standard on all i-Force V8 models, increases towing capacity to up to 10,800 pounds, depending on the drivetrain and specific model.

Eco-friendly auto parts

Alternatives include bamboo and corn

When it comes to weaning the automotive industry away from oil, discussions tend to gravitate toward hybrid and fuel cell vehicles. But automakers are trying to go even farther by trying to produce auto parts from products grown naturally, like corn, bamboo and sweet potatoes, according to *Automotive News*.

Mitsubishi and other Japanese carmakers are hoping that by using parts made of bioplastics, in most cases resins derived entirely or in part from plants rather than petroleum, the automakers aim to make their parts more environmentally friendly. Most bioplastics for autos are still in the research stage, but some earlier versions already are used for casings and other electrical-appliance parts.

So far, automotive applications of these homegrown plastics are mostly confined to garden-variety parts such as floor mats and interior trim. Few if any are suitable for load- or shock-bearing applications, but as the number and variety of bioplastic parts grow, that could change.

For instance, Toyota Motor Corp. already is making limited use of bioplastics. Its Japan-market Raum has floor mats and a spare tire cover made in part from sugar cane and sweet potatoes. Toyota also uses kenaf-based bioplastics for the door trim of the U.S.-built Avalon.

Ford Motor Co. has a number of efforts under way in the field. It is working with researchers at the University of Toronto on natural fiber composite materials such as hemp. And it has come up with a way to use a soy-derived material to replace 40 percent of the petroleum-based polyols used to make the foam for seat cushions and armrests. Until now, most carmakers have been able to replace only 5 percent of the oil-based materials with soy-based ones.

DaimlerChrysler AG makes seat cushions in Brazil from discarded coconut fiber. In the Philippines, it has produced natural abaca fibers to replace fiberglass and plastic in certain parts for the Mercedes-Benz A-class minicar since 2004.

Tundra is full of other surprises, too. Among them is a back-up camera that helps drivers perfectly align the hitch-ball under the trailer tongue, a center console deep enough for holding hanging file folders and a laptop, and outlets that remain live for up to two hours after the ignition is off.

If Tundra sounds like it fits your needs, give us a call and will configure a model that's right for you.

Green Machines

- Ford recently unveiled the company's first-ever electric-electric hybrid, according to *The New York Times*. The vehicle, based on the Ford Edge crossover, runs on electricity from a battery, charged either from a standard wall socket or from an on-board fuel cell. The plug-in hybrid has a 35-kilowatt fuel cell and a 130-kilowatt electric motor. Engineers believe the electric vehicle could be driven the first 25 to 30 miles a day with energy stored in the batteries before activating the fuel cell, a range that covers the daily commute of most drivers. Ford didn't reveal its future plans for the vehicle.
- California's biggest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., is considering a plan to charge fleets of battery-powered cars overnight with wind energy and let consumers sell back some of the stored electricity during the day, according to *Automotive News*. A PG&E representative said that new "smart grid" technologies such as high-tech meters that measure electricity use via remote control could help drivers charge their batteries at home or parking lots and also get a bill credit for putting excess electricity back on the grid.
- Six companies are competing in a Department of Energy contest to see which, if any, can produce a transportation fuel that is an alternative to corn-based ethanol, in commercial quantities, at a cost of around \$1 a gallon. The idea is to produce a viable alternative to gasoline, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. The companies will be exploring ways to make ethanol from materials such as wood chips, orange peels, corn stalks and municipal garbage, which is known as cellulosic ethanol.

Here we GROW again

You've noticed a lot of changes and we've been up to quite a bit more behind the scenes. The new logo on the front of this newsletter is our new name, Endeavor Financial Services; a name we feel more accurately describes our place in today's financial markets. While we started out financing fleets of cars and trucks, we now have several interconnected service lines. I'll let our management team fill you in on the details.

- Dale Davis, CEO, Costa Mesa, CA

"Our Vendor Finance teams are really hitting their stride and in many cases, have become the full service leasing and finance department for our equipment distributors and retailers," notes Jane Stewart-Smith, SVP and Eastern Division Manager, Philadelphia, PA. "We specialize in making every deal work for our vendors."

Jim Bywater, General Manager, Vehicle Sales and Leasing says "Our new showroom in Costa Mesa CA, is now open and we have some great deals on lease returns every day. Stop in and say hello or visit us on the web at www.EndeavorFS.net. Be sure and check out our online inventory pages!"



"Very simply put, we live our motto of Simple, Fast, Cost Effective." Said Ed Beaudette, SVP, Western Division Manager, Sacramento CA, "Our vendors and lessees know, and have come to expect, that our processes are simpler and faster and that makes choosing Endeavor more cost effective. If you are in the market to finance anything for business use, we need to talk. Equipment, Vehicles, Office and Medical technology, you name it, we'll find a way to help."



"We are completely moved into our new location and it's just a block down the street, so we are still easy to find" says Operations Manager Madeline Richards, Costa Mesa, CA. "And our new VOIP phone system makes contacting any of the regional offices as simple as dialing an extension."

Aaron Rutledge, VP, IT Services says, "Our systems are 100% go. Vendor support operates 8AM to 5PM in the US regardless of time zone. Our online presence is growing and we are shifting more applications to the net in support of our widening footprint of regional offices."



"The MI team is active in financing hospitals, groups and solo doctors. We have a great physician recruiting team and our medical student loan program just completed its first year of offerings," says Steve

Cannon VP Physician Resources, Phoenix AZ. "It couldn't be busier but of course I said that last year. Experienced physician recruiters and marketing reps should call me now!"

Simple, Fast, Cost Effective. That's been the motto all along and there's no reason to change that at all. Give us a call and put us to work.

Toll free numbers

877-RAPID-AP

877-727-4327

877-EFS FACS

Endeavorfs.net

Republicfleet.com

Medicalintermediaries.com

3187 Airway Ave.

Costa Mesa, CA 92626



2004 Panoz Esperante GTLM Supercharged 500HP, 2000 miles LEASE for \$1490 per month
... Call for details.