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Corvette Marks 60 Years of Performance with 427 Convertible

DETROIT – Chevrolet today unveiled the 2013 Corvette 427 Convertible Collector Edition – the fastest, most capable convertible in Corvette’s history – as well as a 60th Anniversary Package that will be available on all 2013 Corvette models.

“The 2013 model year will be historic for Corvette, marking its 60th Anniversary and the final year for the current ‘C6’ generation,” said Chris Perry, vice president, Global Marketing and Strategy for Chevrolet. “We couldn’t think of a more fitting way to celebrate these milestones than bringing back one of the most-coveted combinations in the brand’s history – the Corvette convertible and a 427 cubic-inch engine.”

The 60th Anniversary Package and 427 Convertible will make their public debut at the Barrett Jackson collector car auction in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Jan 21, and will arrive at U.S. Chevrolet dealers early this summer.

Corvette 427 Convertible Collector Edition

The Corvette 427 Convertible blends elements of the Z06 and ZR1 models to create the fastest and most-capable convertible in Corvette’s history.

Its heart is the 427-cubic-inch (7.0L) LS7 engine from the Corvette Z06. Rated at 505 horsepower (377 kW) and 470 lb.-ft. of torque (637 Nm), it is the most powerful engine ever installed in a production Corvette convertible – and, like the Z06, the 427 Convertible is only available with a six-speed manual transmission.

The LS7 was co-developed with the Corvette Le Mans-winning GT1 engine and features lightweight titanium connecting rods and intake valves, as well as racing-inspired high-flow cylinder heads and a dry-sump oiling system. It is assembled by hand at GM’s Performance Build Center, where customers who purchase the 427 Convertible Collector Edition can purchase the Corvette Build Experience option and assemble the engine that will power their new car.

Supporting performance elements in the Corvette 427 Convertible include the driveline and rear axle system from the Corvette Z06, a rear-mounted battery and standard Magnetic Selective Ride Control. The standard 19-inch front and 20-inch rear wheels are wrapped in ZR1-style Michelin PS2 tires. Lightweight machine-face Cup wheels – introduced on the 2012 Corvette Z06 with Z07 and Corvette ZR1 with PDE performance packages – come standard and include unique gray-painted pockets. Black Cup wheels or chrome ZR1-style wheels are also available.

The 427 Convertible also features several carbon-fiber components that help reduce weight, including:

- Carbon fiber raised hood (introduced on the 2011 Z06 Carbon Edition)
- Carbon fiber Z06-style fenders
- Carbon fiber floor panels

- The “CFZ” carbon fiber front splitter and rocker panels are optional on the 427 Convertible, and included with the 60th Anniversary package

The weight reduction brings the 427 Convertible’s curb weight to 3,355 pounds (1,522 kg). Combined with its 505-horsepower LS7 engine, it gives the 427 Convertible a power-to-weight ratio of 6.64 – or one horsepower for every 6.64 pounds of vehicle mass. That’s better than:

- Porsche 911 Turbo S Cabriolet – 6.90
- Audi R8 5.2 RSI Spyder – 7.58
- Aston Martin DBS Volante Convertible – 7.82
- Ferrari California Convertible – 8.31

The combination of low mass and high output will make the 427 Convertible one of the fastest convertibles in the world, delivering estimated 0-60 performance of 3.8 seconds, quarter-mile performance of 11.8 seconds, lateral acceleration of 1.04 g and a top speed of more than 190 mph.

The 427 Convertible is available in 2LT, 3LT and 4LT trim levels and will carry a unique vehicle identification number sequence, similar to the Corvette ZR1.

Corvette 60th Anniversary Package

All 2013 Corvette models, including the 427 Convertible, will be available with a 60th Anniversary Package, featuring an Arctic White exterior with a Blue Diamond leather-wrapped interior with suede accents. Convertible models will have a blue top.

Additional content includes a ZR1-style rear spoiler, special badging, gray-painted brake calipers and the “60th” logo on the wheel center caps, steering wheel and seat headrests. An optional graphics package adds full-length racing stripes in Pearl Silver Blue, including a tonal stripe stitched into the convertible top, extending the graphic theme over the roof.

For 2013, all Corvettes will feature 60th Anniversary badges on the fascias and the “waterfall” panel on convertible models, as well as 60th logos in the instrument panel gauge cluster and on the sill plates.

Charity Auction at Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale

The first Corvette 427 Convertible offered to the public will go to the highest bidder at the [Barrett-Jackson](#) Scottsdale collector car auction, on Saturday, Jan. 21. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the [Drive to End Hunger](#) food relief program.

Chevrolet and Hendrick Motorsports are teaming up for the auction, including Hendrick team driver and four-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion Jeff Gordon. Team owner Rick Hendrick helped launch the Drive to End Hunger program with AARP and the AARP Foundation.

The Drive to End Hunger is part of a multi-year sponsorship for Gordon’s No. 24 Chevrolet. It calls on racing fans, corporations and charitable organizations to raise money, build awareness, and engage Americans who face the threat of hunger.

A legacy of 427-powered Corvettes

Early 427-powered Corvettes, particularly convertibles, offered from 1966 to 1969 are some of the most-coveted and collectable Corvettes ever produced.

The first 427-powered Corvette rolled off the assembly line for the 1966 model year. Two performance levels of the 427 were initially offered – an “L30” version rated at 390 horsepower and the “L72,” which cranked out 425 horsepower. Both were rated at 460 lb-ft. of torque.

The range of 427 engines grew in 1967, with the addition of the “L71” and “L88” options. The L71 added a unique triple-carburetor induction system that helped boost output to 435 horsepower. Known to collectors as “427/435” cars, these ’67 models – especially the convertibles – are especially sought-after collector cars.

The “L88” delivered 430-horsepower (with a single four-barrel carburetor) thanks to racing-tuned aluminum heads. Intended for customers who would immediately transform their new Corvette into a race car, the L88 was installed in just 216 production Corvettes between 1967 and 1969.

In 1969, a special “L89” 427 engine combined the L71’s induction system with the L88’s aluminum heads, offering maximum horsepower with an approximately 100-pound weight advantage over the standard iron heads. Also in 1969, Chevrolet built two “ZL1” 427 Corvette coupes. The ZL1 engine was essentially an all-aluminum version of the L88, with the aluminum cylinder block and heads offering a tremendous weight advantage for racing. More of the engines were sold as crate engines to racers.

By 1970, the big-block engine grew to 454 cubic inches, just as the trend in high-compression, high-performance engines was beginning to wane. The four-year run of 427 Corvettes was already established as the golden era of performance

Commemorative Collector Edition and Anniversary Edition models

Rare and low-production examples of the Corvette have been around since its 1953 introduction, but Chevrolet didn’t begin building commemorative models until 1978, when the 25th Anniversary model – also known as the Silver Anniversary Corvette – was offered. The Corvette was in its third generation then and at the close of that epoch in 1982, a Collectors Edition was offered, as well.

Those special models launched what has become a tradition for the Chevrolet Corvette, which has offered milestone anniversary and generational collector-edition models ever since. The 2013 Corvette 427 Convertible represents the first time a Collector Edition and Anniversary Edition are being offered in the same year – and available on the same car.

Below is a list of the Collector Edition and Anniversary Edition models, as well as production numbers and their distinguishing features.

YEAR	MODEL	FEATURES	PRODUCTION
1978	25th Anniversary	Two-tone silver exterior with gray leather interior	15,283
1982	Collector Edition	Silver-beige exterior color with lower graphic accent; silver-beige leather interior; bronze-tinted roof panels; cast aluminum “fin” wheels and unique VIN identification	6,759
1988	35th Anniversary	White lower body with white 17-in. wheels, with black roof and dark removable roof panel; special badging and embroidered seat logos; all-white leather interior	2,050
1993	40th Anniversary	First anniversary model offered in coupe and convertible body styles; Ruby Red exterior with special badging; Ruby Red leather-covered seats	6,749

1996	Collector Edition	Sebring Silver exterior with special badging; silver 17-inch ZR-1-style wheels; "Collector Edition"-embroidered seats; optional LT4 5.7L engine with 330 hp	5,412
2003	50th Anniversary	Special 50th Anniversary Red exterior; specific badging and champagne-color five-spoke wheels; Shale leather-trimmed interior	11,632
2004	Commemorative Edition	Coupe and convertible models in LeMans Blue with Shale leather-trimmed interior; Z06 model in LeMans Blue with silver stripe graphics and carbon fiber hood	4,829 (coupe/convertible) 2,025 (Z06)
2013	60th Anniversary	Arctic White with Blue Diamond leather-wrapped interior and blue top (convertibles); special badging; optional stripe package; 60th logo gauge cluster and sill plates	TBD
	427 Convertible Collector Edition	427 Convertible Collector Edition with LS7 engine; carbon fiber hood, fenders and floor panels; 19-in./20-in. wheels with Michelin PS2 tires; std. Magnetic Selective Ride Control; 427 hood badges	TBD

Founded in 1911 in Detroit, **Chevrolet** is now one of the world's largest car brands, doing business in more than 140 countries and selling more than 4 million cars and trucks a year. Chevrolet provides customers with fuel-efficient vehicles that feature spirited performance, expressive design, and high quality. More information on Chevrolet models can be found at www.chevrolet.com.

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2013 CHEVROLET COREVETTE 427 CONVERTIBLE COLLECTOR EDITION – PRELIMINARY SPECIFICATIONS

Overview	
Model:	Chevrolet Corvette 427 Convertible Collector Edition
Body styles / driveline:	two-door convertible; rear-wheel drive
Construction:	composite body panels, hydroformed steel frame with aluminum and magnesium structural and chassis components
Manufacturing location:	Bowling Green, Ky.

Engines	7.0L V-8 LS7 (Z06)
Displacement (cu in / cc):	427 / 7008
Bore & stroke (in / mm):	4.125 x 4 / 104.8 x 101.6
Block material:	cast aluminum
Cylinder head material:	cast aluminum
Valvetrain:	overhead valve, two valves per cylinder
Fuel delivery:	SFI (sequential fuel injection)
Compression ratio:	11.0:1
Horsepower (hp / kW @ rpm):	505 / 377 @ 6300*
Torque (lb-ft / Nm @ rpm):	470 / 637 @ 4800*
Recommended fuel:	premium required
Estimated fuel economy (city / hwy):	15 / 24 (no guzzler tax)

Transmission	six-speed manual
Application:	std.
Gear ratios (:1):	
First:	2.66
Second:	1.78
Third:	1.30
Fourth:	1.00
Fifth:	0.74
Sixth:	0.50
Reverse:	2.90
Final drive ratio:	3.42

Chassis / Suspension	
Front:	short/long arm (SLA) double wishbone, cast aluminum upper and lower control arms, transverse-mounted composite leaf spring, monotube shock absorber; Magnetic Selective Ride Control
Rear:	short/long arm (SLA) double wishbone, cast aluminum upper and lower control arms, transverse-mounted composite leaf spring, monotube shock absorber; Magnetic Selective Ride Control
Traction control:	electronic traction control; Active Handling

Brakes	

Type:	front and rear power-assisted disc with ABS with six-piston front and four-piston rear calipers, cross-drilled rotors;
Rotor diameter x thickness (in / mm):	front: 14 x 1.3 / 355 x 32 rear: 13.4 x 1 / 340 x 26
Brake swept area (sq in / mm):	front: 309 / 1994 rear: 269 / 1735
Wheels & Tires	
Wheel size:	front: 19-inch x 10-inch aluminum rear: 20-inch x 12-inch aluminum
Tires:	front: 285/30ZR19 rear: 335/25ZR20

Dimensions	
Wheelbase (in / mm):	105.7 / 2685
Overall length (in / mm):	175.6 / 4460
Overall width (in / mm):	75.9 / 1928
Overall height (in / mm):	48.7 / 1236
Curb weight (lb / kg):	3355/ 1522
Weight distribution (% front / rear):	50 / 50
Interior	
Seating capacity	2
Interior volume (cu ft / L):	52 / 1475
Headroom (in / mm):	38 / 962
Legroom (in / mm):	43 / 1092
Shoulder room (in / mm):	55 / 1397
Hip room (in / mm):	54 / 1371
Capacities	
Cargo volume (cu ft / L):	11 / 295 (top up); 7.5 / 212 (top down)
Fuel tank (gal / L):	18 / 68.1
Engine oil (qt / L):	10.5 / 9.9

* SAE certified.

Note: Information shown is current at time of publication.