

Mazda 2019 MX-5, MX-5 RF To Go On Sale Soon

RICHMOND HILL: How do you make the world's best-selling, two-seat roadster even better? Mazda's designers and engineers have found the answer with the 2019 MX-5 and MX-5 RF, which goes on sale later this summer from a starting MSRP of \$32,900.

While its biggest change comes by way of its thoroughly upgraded SKYACTIV-G 2.0-liter engine, which is now more responsive, efficient and powerful, other numerous updates include:

Steering wheel adds telescoping feature for the first time in MX-5 history with 30mm of telescoping range, to accommodate a wider range of seating positions

- An aluminum steering column to save weight versus the previous steel unit

- A new, standard rearview camera

- Standard Smart City Brake Support low-speed automatic emergency braking

- Available Traffic Sign Recognition

- An available brown soft top for MX-5 GT models

With a lengthy list of new standard equipment for the 2019 MX-5, the MX-5 GX model has been supplanted by the GS as the starting point in the lineup. In addition to the new 2.0L engine, the 2019 MX-5 GS also receives upgrades in the safety department with standard Smart



City Brake Support (SCBS), Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS), High Beam Control System (HBC), and a wide-angle rearview camera. Other new standard features include telescoping steering wheel, seven-inch touchscreen display with Mazda Connect infotainment system and HMI Commander, HD radio, and navigation-ready functionality (requires SD card accessory). Standard equipment carried over from the 2018 MX-5 GX includes push-button start, air conditioning, advanced keyless entry system, LED headlights and rear combination lights, automatic on/off headlights, auto leveling headlights, Advanced Blind Spot Monitoring (ABSM), and Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA).

The new mid-range MX-5 carries the GS-P moniker and will appeal to the enthusiast buyer,

with standard sport suspension with Bilstein® shock absorbers, limited slip differential, strut tower bar, and 17-inch black metallic alloy wheels. A Bose® premium audio system is now standard in the mid-range GS-P and features 9 speakers with AudioPilot® 2 noise compensation technology (including driver and passenger headrest speakers, and subwoofer), along with navigation, leather-wrapped steering wheel, shift knob and parking brake handle, heated exterior mirrors, and LED daytime running lights (DRL). The interior features black cloth upholstery with red stitching, and three-position seat heaters.

The GS-P model has an available Sport Package, which includes black 17-inch BBS® forged wheels, Brembo® front brakes, red painted front and rear brake calipers, and Recaro®

sport seats (Nappa leather and Alcantara® trimmed).

The MX-5 GT continues to be the top of the range and adds to the GS-P equipment with automatic climate control, auto-dimming rearview mirror, HomeLink® wireless control system, 4.6-inch multi-information colour display in gauge cluster, SiriusXM® satellite radio, black leather seating with KODO stitching, convertible top cloth liner, Traffic Sign Recognition System (TSR), and Adaptive Front-lighting System.

Options for the MX-5 GT include a Dark Cherry cloth soft-folding convertible top, a new brown soft-top option, and Chroma Brown Nappa leather seats with KODO stitching.

The two-trim strategy for the 2019 MX-5 RF carries over from 2018 and starts with the newly-named GS-P model. Standard

features and options mimic the 2019 MX-5 soft-top model, with the exception of the 4.6-inch colour MID which is standard on the MX-5 RF. The 2019 MX-5 RF GS-P also includes the availability of the Sport Package.

With no soft-top colour options available, things take a different path with the GT trim level. The MX-5 RF GT gives buyers a chance to differentiate their car with the available Exclusive Package or Grand Sport Package (manual transmission only).

The Exclusive Package adds some colour contrast inside and out with a unique piano black hard top, and Chroma Brown Nappa leather seating with KODO stitching. The Grand Sport Package includes these features as well and takes it a step further by adding the 17-inch BBS® forged wheels and Brembo® front brakes from the GS-P Sport Package.

All 2019 MX-5s come standard in Canada with a SKYACTIV-G 2.0-liter engine, now producing 181 horsepower at 7,000 rpm and 151 lb-ft of torque at 4,000 rpm. That represents an increase of 26 hp and 3 lb-ft of torque over the previous model. Thanks to a host of internal improvements, including lighter pistons and rods, MX-5's engine produces more torque throughout its rev range and enjoys a 700 rpm higher redline for the new model year.

BMW Group Expanding European Network

MUNICH: The BMW Group continues to expand its production network in Europe, with a new facility to be built in Hungary, close to the town of Debrecen. It will come at an investment of approximately €1 billion, offer capacity of up to 150,000 units a year and create over 1,000 new jobs.

"The BMW Group's decision to build this new plant reaffirms our perspective for global growth. After significant investments in China, Mexico and the USA, we are now strengthening our activities in Europe to maintain a worldwide balance of production between Asia, America and our home continent," said Harald Krüger, Chairman of the BMW AG Board of Management. "Europe is the BMW Group's largest production location. In 2018 alone we are investing more than €1 billion in our German sites to upgrade and prepare them for electric mobility."

Oliver Zipse, BMW AG Board Member for Production, added: "In the future, every BMW Group plant in Europe will be equipped to produce electrified as well as conventional vehicles. Our new



plant in Hungary will also be able to manufacture both combustion and electrified BMW models – all on a single production line. It will bring greater capacity to our worldwide production network. When production commences, the plant will set new standards in flexibility, digitalisation and productivity."

Europe is the most important

market for the BMW Group. In 2017 it accounted for almost 45 percent of all vehicle sales, with 1.1 million units sold. Up to the end of June 2018, the BMW Group grew in many markets across the continent, with vehicle deliveries totalling more than 560,000 units – a year-on-year rise of 1.2 percent.

The latest decision to develop

the production network follows the BMW Group's strategic principle of balanced global growth and represents the next logical step in the implementation of BMW Group Strategy NUMBER ONE > NEXT.

Debrecen is the ideal place for the BMW Group to expand its production network. It was chosen primarily for its very good

infrastructure, suitable logistics connections and proximity to the established supplier network. The qualified personnel in the local area were another key advantage. Besides the team at the plant itself, numerous jobs will be created with suppliers and service providers, both within the grounds of the new facility and across the local region.

VOICE AUTOMOBILE

FOR THE BEST IN AUTO NEWS,
VIEWS AND REVIEWS AND
FOR THE BEST DEALS ON WHEELS