

# Cars of the future

**Sam Price** looks ahead to the 2015 editions of the Tokyo Motor Show and Los Angeles Auto Show, to uncover what automobile enthusiasts can expect to see this season

**T**here has never been a better time to be a luxury car owner, and petrolheads seeking to test-drive the latest models and keep in touch with visionary trends can look forward to two of the biggest events in the calendar before the end of the year.

The Tokyo Motor Show (October 29-November 8) and the Los Angeles Auto Show (November 20-29) display the best of automobile development and technological innovation, and to be in attendance is to witness the relentless evolution of this exciting industry.

Tokyo and technology are inseparable, and those making the journey to Japan's capital city for the 2015 Tokyo Motor Show will be experiencing some of the most high-tech innovations in the auto industry.

Over 900,000 people flocked to Tokyo in November 2013 for its biennial event, where some of the vehicles on display highlighted the latest space-age ideas emanating from the Far East.

"Futuristic technologies that were nothing more than a scene

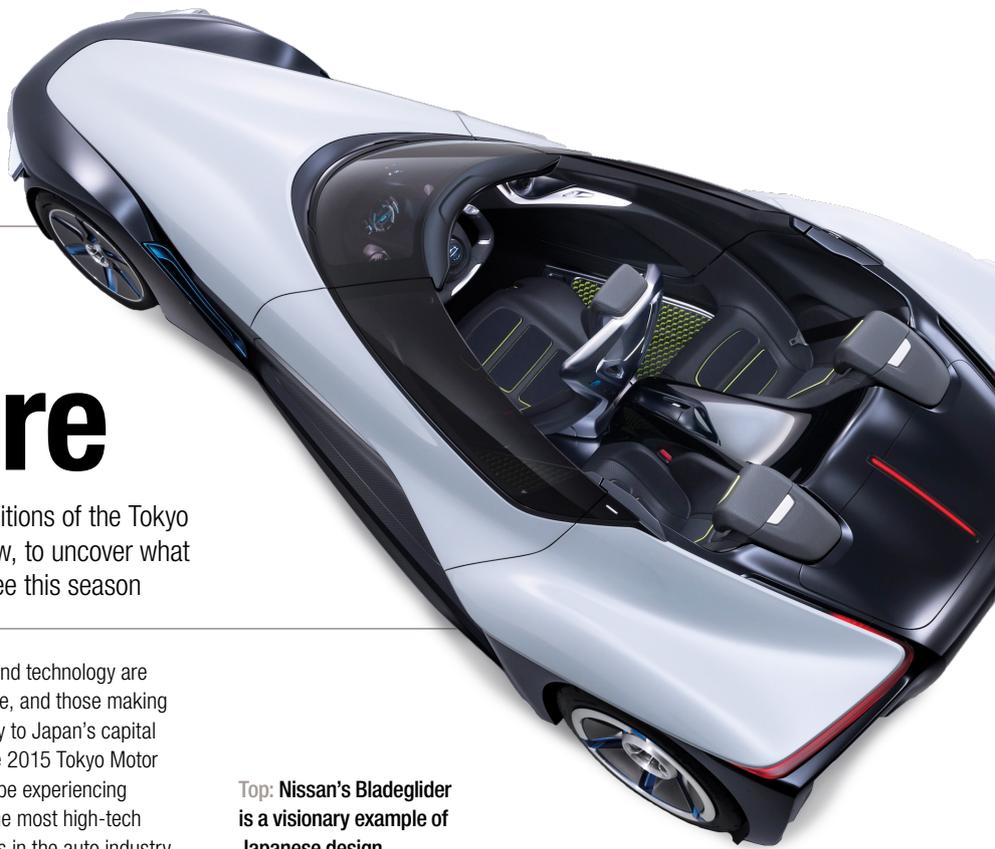
**Top:** Nissan's BladeGlider is a visionary example of Japanese design

**Main:** Supercar SLS AMG GT Final Edition stole the show in 2013

**Right:** Bidding to steal the lime-light this year is Toyota's Small FR concept; Mercedes Maybach and in 2013, the Lexus RC Coupe

from a science fiction movie are now being put into motion in real society with the power of technology," says Fumihiko Ike, Chairman of event organisers the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA).

Two years ago, jaws dropped as Nissan revealed the BladeGlider – a concept that is still in production, but underlined the visionary approach to Japanese car design – while Lexus impressed international audiences by debuting the stylish RC Coupe. More spectacular unveilings are



expected this year, and with the show deciding on a 2015 theme of 'Your heart will race', visitors should prepare to be exhilarated.

Leading Japanese manufacturers Nissan, Mazda and Subaru each have at least two show cars in store, while Toyota's Small FR Concept, Suzuki's Swift Sport Concept and the latest Mercedes-Maybach are all in contention to steal the limelight.

The show, which begins by commemorating its 60th anniversary with a parade that will take spectators through the different eras of vehicle production, also includes a state-of-the-art test-ride course for cars and motorcycles, and hosts a number of symposiums discussing the latest auto technologies.

And don't miss the 'Smart Mobility City 2015', a theme park-like experience where visitors can ride in the latest automated driving and advanced driver assistance systems, in a hands-on glimpse into the future of mobility.

Quickly following Tokyo's automobile extravaganza is the Californian equivalent, the Los Angeles Auto Show, which takes place at the Los Angeles Convention Center from the 20-29 November.

Settled in its position as the first significant North American



automobile show of the season, the exhibition boasts more than a century of history but continues to increase in stature and popularity. Indeed, this will be the second consecutive year in which LA hosts at least 30 world debuts.

The West Coast city is regarded as the car culture capital of the world and this event contributes to the reputation. It has provided a showroom for many iconic motors, from the Ford Mustang of the 1960s all the way to the Mazda CX-3, a stunning miniature SUV that premiered at the 2014 show.

This year promises to be no less exciting. Towards the top of the list of must-see exhibits

is the Jaguar F-PACE, which turned heads when revealed at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September and makes its North American debut this November.

Priced at €48,025/US\$53,710, it is Jaguar/Land Rover's first luxury SUV and features InControl Touch Pro, the world's most advanced infotainment system.

Those with more expensive taste may consider test-driving the Bentley Bentayga (€221,649/US\$247,627), while the global debuts of the brand new Hyundai Elantra and Infiniti's QX30 crossover are also hotly anticipated. Before purchasers can get their wallet out, however, the show stages the Connected

**Above: The LA Auto show previews some of the most luxurious car models Below: Test-drive the new Bentley Bentayga for the ultimate ride**

Car Expo (CCE) to further debate on the convergence of technology and the automobile. John Zimmer, co-founder and president of ridesharing platform Lyft, will head an all-star list of industry speakers.

And after the serious discussion there are plenty of activities to keep visitors entertained throughout the 10 days. Demonstrations of cutting-edge concepts and innovative accessories are sure to capture the imagination, while 90-minute tours of the show with an expert are also available to purchase.

There is already much to get excited about, but with many manufacturers set to leave it late before announcing details of their hottest debuts, the best place to find out more will be to head to Tokyo or Los Angeles this fall for an unforgettable automotive experience. ■

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[www.laautoshow.com](http://www.laautoshow.com)

