



California soul, electric heart: Mustang Mach-E GT reimagines classic cool

Ford is introducing the Mustang Mach-E GT California Special: coupling a classic special edition with modern electric vehicle innovation. This available package brings heritage-inspired design to the Mustang family's newest member.

"There is something about the idea of the California spirit that has always been associated with the Mustang brand, and now Mustang Mach-E joins as part of the family," says Kristen Keenan, colour and materials designer for Ford.

Grassroots Origins

In the 1960s, California dealers were responsible for a large portion of all and wanted their contributions to the vehicle's success commemorated through a unique package. The dealers collaborated with Ford, and in 1968, the original California Special was born. The coupe's original red and black accents and aero features would define the trim package for years. Just over 4,000 of the original California Special Mustang vehicles were built.

Back to the Future with a California Twist

With the launch of the seventh generation of the Mustang two-door in 2024, Ford was inspired to take a fresh look at what California Special could be. "We made some bold changes," said Stefan Taylor, exterior designer at Ford. "We are creating something new for Mustang brand today while making sure we respect its heritage."

He explained they wanted to capture what California represented visually. "We thought about what we could do on the colour and materials side to tell the story from a more modern perspective."

That year, Ford removed the side scoops, changed the vehicle graphics, and stepped away from the red and black accents in favour of a new colour.

"With California and its beautiful coastline, blue is a natural choice," said Keenan. "We developed a new colour called Rave Blue. It travels from light to dark, just like ocean water, and

it's extremely chromatic, going to a blue violet in some cases. It's just a beautiful dynamic colour."

Rave Blue is now the cornerstone of the California Special package, found on both the Mustang two-door and now the Mustang Mach-E.

Design Duo

The Mustang Mach-E threads similar design elements with its Mustang two-door sibling, but both Keenan and Taylor say they're not meant to be identical. "We didn't want to copy and paste what we did with the Mustang two-door. The design honours the Mustang Mach-E's place in the Mustang family, while giving it its own identity," said Taylor.

Both vehicles wear Rave Blue accents on their wheels, grille, exterior badges, and interiors, and they both boast the updated "California Special" font, which trades the 60s heritage style for a modern block look.

The Mustang Mach-E takes on additional design elements, including:

- 20-inch carbonised grey wheels with a printed GT/CS logo, along with gloss black aero wheel covers
- Tarnished Dark Anodized framing for the pony emblem on the grille
- A special hood graphic, inspired by the California coastline

"It has the California Special wordmark on the hood, with radiating sunset lines in layered grey, black, and a blue accent representing the ocean," explains Taylor.

But the interior is what sets the Mustang Mach-E GT California Special apart: Performance seats are upholstered in Navy Pier ActiveX and Miko material with reflective blue and silver stripe. The centre console and steering wheel are also wrapped in the same navy ActiveX, while matching floor mats echo the seats' blue and silver stitching details.

The Mustang Mach-E California Special is built on the GT series and offers up to 515 km range,¹ 487 PS power and 950 Nm of torque.²

Inspired by Community

Honouring the California Special's grassroots design process, Ford continues to draw inspiration from the community that helped make Mustang an icon. Both Keenan and Taylor, Mustang

owners themselves, regularly attend car shows and Mustang-owner meetups. Their designs are powered by trends and the ways in which owners modify their cars. In fact, the California Special's Rave Blue wheels were inspired by vehicles on display at The SEMA Show in Las Vegas, the largest aftermarket car show.

"At car shows and Mustang events, you see all sorts of modified Mustang vehicles. There's so much inspiration to take from how these customers make their vehicles distinctly their own. This helped lead us to using the Rave blue accent colour on the wheels of this vehicle," said Taylor. "Personalisation is such a big part of what people love about the brand so we wanted to make sure we were giving potential customers a package that stands out and offers something unique in this space."

The Mustang Mach-E GT California Special delivers the best of both worlds – advanced electric performance wrapped in heritage-inspired design with today's California style. The Mustang Mach-E California Special will be available to order in Europe in spring 2026.

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¹ Up to 515 km driving range based on full charge of Mustang Mach-E GT California Special. Estimated range using Worldwide Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP). Figures shown are for comparability purposes and should only be compared with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. Actual range varies due to factors such as temperature, driving behaviour, route profile, vehicle maintenance, lithium-ion battery age and condition.

² Horsepower and torque are independent attributes and may not be achieved simultaneously.

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