

# NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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## PANOZ LAUNCHES NEW LIMITED EDITION DRIVER'S ESPERANTE

**Hoschton, Ga. - December 6, 2002** - Panoz Auto Development, a leading manufacturer of high performance automobiles and racing cars, unveiled the all-new Driver's Edition of its luxury sports car, the Esperante at Las Vegas' 2002 SEMA show.

The Driver's Edition Esperante celebrates the Panoz Racing Team and its leading drivers' efforts. They are the direct result of a close collaboration between the Panoz Motor Sports and the Panoz Auto Development operations. Only ten Driver's Edition Esperantes will be built to commemorate each of the team's leading drivers, Jan Magnussen and David Brabham.

The drivers have provided direct input on the technical, aesthetic and ergonomic specifications of the cars. Suspension settings, brakes, wheels, tires, seats, trim, colors and other details have been hand selected by both Jan and David. These limited edition cars have been designed to provide more of a pure sporting environment to the customer while retaining many of the highly acclaimed GT's features, bringing more of the Le Mans performance and endurance ethos to the road cars.

This new Brabham Driver's Edition Esperante will be a 390-horsepower supercharged coupe and will feature carbon fiber super structures, custom carbon fiber rocker panels, carbon fiber roof, 6 speed Tremec T56 transmission, a cross drilled brake rotor package, BBS wheels (18 x 8.5 front 18 x 10 rear), Michelin Pilot Sport A/S tires (245 x 40s front 275 x 40 x 18 rear) with Billet alloy pedals and shifter as standard. They are also fitted with lighter adjustable sport seats, a carbon fiber rear spoiler, carbon fiber side vents, complex reflex reflector headlamps and upgraded Rockford Fosgate stereo package.

The new Brabham Driver's Edition Esperante will feature the formidable 390 HP supercharged, inter-cooled, four cam, Ford SVT engine hand built by two-man teams in Romeo, Michigan. Panoz will also continue to service all Esperante customers through its nationwide dealer network.

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## **Panoz launches new Driver's Esperante (2/2)**

Like all Esperantes, the Driver's Edition cars will come fully equipped with dual airbags, leather interior, ABS, Electronic Traction Control and a race-inspired four-wheel independent suspension system. They will also be covered by Panoz' 3-year/36,000 mile warranty and 24-Hour Roadside Assistance plan.

The Driver's Edition Esperantes will be limited run cars with only ten (10) of each car being built. Prices will start from \$116,765.00 and Driver's Edition Esperantes will continue to offer the exclusivity, performance and value that have become synonymous with Panoz cars.

The Driver's Edition Esperantes bolster the Panoz Auto Development Company's reputation for providing revolutionary and groundbreaking products and processes to the automotive industry.

Panoz was the first US auto manufacturer to use 'superformed' aluminum panels for its bodies, a process now being followed by the industry's elite such as Aston Martin *et al.*

Panoz was the first US auto manufacturer to pioneer the use of carbon fiber in all its substructures and since the introduction of the 2002 model all Panoz Esperante's come standard with all carbon fiber superstructure.

Panoz was the first US auto manufacturer to design and build an Aluminum Intensive Vehicle with its AIV Roadster. The modular chassis developed by Panoz for the 2001 Panoz Esperante is also at the leading edge of automotive engineering. The Panoz design and production processes reach for levels of efficiency in the development and production cycle that are trickling their way into the major manufacturers' stables.

Coupled with classically timeless automotive styling and an aggressively competitive motor sports program, the Panoz Auto Development Company is rapidly emerging as the definitive US low volume sports car marquee. The Panoz Esperante won the 2002 Manufacturers Championship in its first full year in the series and Boris Said won the Trans-Am Drivers Championship driving a Panoz Esperante with the most dominating performance in 37 years.

Daniel Panoz, founder and President of the Panoz Auto Development Company held a press conference at the Ford Component Sales booth at SEMA sharing some of the insights and innovations that have lead the company to world class status.

More press releases, downloadable images and other information are available on the 'Press Only Area' of [www.panozauto.com](http://www.panozauto.com).

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