

For Immediate Release

At a Glance: Infiniti Essence Concept

With a design inspired by the simplicity and flow of a single brush stroke, the Infiniti Essence sport coupe concept represents both a celebration of Infiniti's first 20 years and an exploration into the brand's future.

Essence's sculptural exterior is positioned at the true cutting edge of automotive design, quietly hinting at fluidity and speed. Inside, its intensely driver-focused interior blends "new luxury" with traditional Japanese craftsmanship. Attention to luxury is seen in every detail, including the specially fitted three-piece Louis Vuitton luggage set.

Performance is expressed through a parallel hybrid system, combining a high-output 3.7-liter twin-turbo V6 engine with a new ultra-slim "3D" electric motor to generate 592 horsepower. Essence also showcases Infiniti's next-generation "Safety Shield" technologies, building toward the engineers' dream of a "collision-free" car.

Highlights of the Infiniti Essence Concept include:

Essence Design

- A front-engine, two-seat, rear-wheel drive luxury coupe concept measuring 185 inches long
- "New luxury" meets traditional Japanese craftsmanship
- Merges existing Infiniti design cues with fresh design language, resulting in a shape that is highly sculptural yet also very delicate
- Long hood and short rear deck, flowing "wave" profile between muscular front and rear wheel arches
- Side window graphics bring an innovative and distinctive edge to the styling, with its razor-sharp line in contrast to the concave sweep of the upper body just below
- Rear section features complex surfacing with concave "scoops" that flow down the rear pillars from a distinctive C-shaped kink to the side windows' trailing edge
- Side air vents feature a simple yet delicate shape, finely finished in aluminium
- Lines and details inspired by the wide brush strokes of Japanese calligraphy
- Infiniti signature double-arch grille framed by subtle strips of stainless steel
- Grille is set at an angle and features a large, illuminated Infiniti badge
- Narrow push button door handles set flush with the body
- Rearview mirrors replaced by minuscule cameras teased out of the A-pillars
- Signature Infiniti L-shaped headlight modules taper back on to the bulging guards, accented at the top edge by a row of LEDs
- Slender curved taillights, overlapping with the trunk opening and framing the spoiler, which appears to have been pushed out from within the car

Essence Interior

- Minimalist and intensely driver-focused interior
- Extensive use of leather, Alcantara and hand-painted wood inspired by traditional Japanese lacquerware – giving the cabin a rich and inviting warmth
- Asymmetrical cabin divided into two areas – driver’s side themed black, passenger’s “cocoon” an earthy red
- Large curving console between the seats that sweeps around to merge with the center of the dashboard
- Flat-bottomed steering wheel, chronometer-style dials, bright red engine start button, paddle shifters and short, alloy-topped gear selector
- Louis Vuitton fitted luggage (three pieces) to maximize trans-continental capability; button on key fob operates trunk lid, allowing the trunk floor to slide out for easy access

Essence Drivetrain

- Front engine, rear-wheel drive
- A preview of Infiniti’s gasoline/electric hybrid drivetrain – capable of high speeds when conditions allow, zero emissions where they don’t
- 592 horsepower (combined gasoline/electric)
- Infiniti 3.7-liter DOHC V6 gasoline engine fitted with twin turbochargers and a new, efficient direct-injection fuel system, rated at 434 horsepower
- New “3D Motor” electric motor rated at 158 horsepower – designed to meet tough requirements on size and power output; operates in both propulsion and power regeneration modes
- Slim, disk-shaped “3D Motor” has twice the torque of a conventional unit, design achieved by 3D magnetic field analysis to optimize the layout of the electromagnetic coils and permanent magnets
- For use in the Essence, the motor is positioned between the engine and transmission, drawing power from a compact lithium-ion battery pack in the trunk area
- Optimized energy usage across the widest possible range of driving conditions is guaranteed by two separate clutches, which “switch in” the motors as required
- System requires no torque converter, further enhancing responsiveness and driving pleasure

Essence Safety

- Pre-emptive safety features are designed to help support the driver in an intuitive manner with minimal intervention
- Previews next-generation safety features, including two new technologies – Side Collision Prevention (SCP) and Back-up Collision Prevention (BCP)
- Also includes current Infiniti technology: Distance Control Assist (DCA) and Lane Departure Prevention (LDP)

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