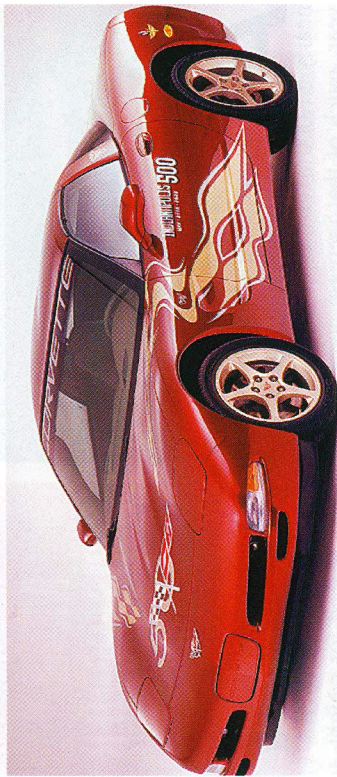




The golden anniversary for America's sports car finally arrives.

It has been a long, fascinating trip for the little plastic show car that debuted on that wintry January day in 1953 at New York's Waldorf Astoria.

In the early days, the car seemed poised to wink out of existence and become just another automotive oddity, along with the Edsel. But thanks to the dedication of early Corvette pioneers like Zora Arkus Duntov and Bill Mitchell and, later, Corvette cheerleaders within General Motors and the vocal community of Corvette owners, the car survived and thrived.

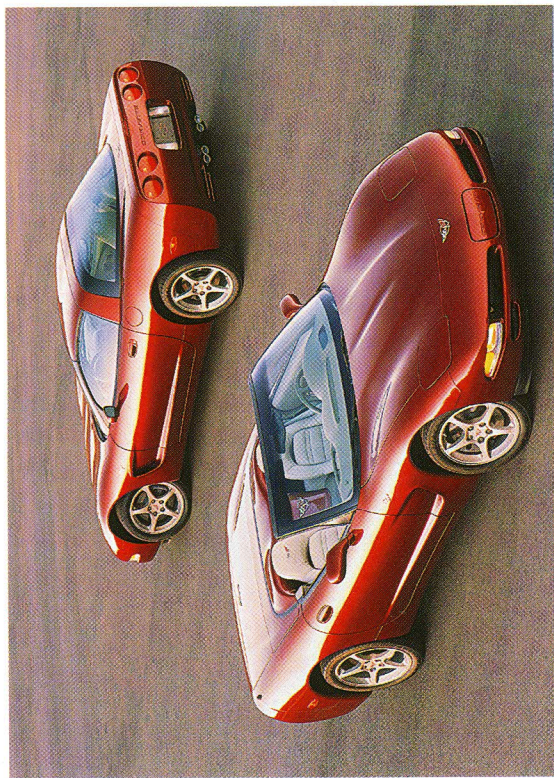
Although the concept of the 2003 Corvette remains true to the two-seat sports car that first

appeared a half century ago, today's car is a paragon of technology and speed.

To mark the 50th year of Corvette, Chevrolet cooked up an anniversary package that is more about understated elegance than party-time bold.

Anniversary Corvettes received special ruby red — called Xirallic crystal by Chevrolet — exterior paint and a shale-colored interior marked by anniversary logos. There also were special anniversary emblems on the fenders, and the wheels were painted a champagne color and had special anniversary center wheel caps.

The anniversary cars came loaded with options, including the new for 2003 Magnetic Selective Ride Control system.



The package was available only on coupes and convertibles and not on the Z06.

A 50th anniversary model Vette paced the Indianapolis 500, but there was no special pace car replica model.

All Corvettes sported various anniversary emblems, but only the red-and-shale colored cars are considered anniversary models.

The only regret that some Corvette fans may have is that the 50th anniversary cars are not the next generation Corvette, which is due to arrive in 2004 as a 2005 model.

Nonetheless, the mere fact that Corvette has turned 50 is something worth celebrating.

2003 CORVETTE

Price: \$43,895 (coupe); \$51,155 (Z06 hardtop); \$50,370 (convertible)

Engine: 5.7-liter V8

Horsepower: 350 (405 for Z06 hardtop)

Transmission: Four-speed automatic

Major options: Six-speed manual transmission (\$915); 50th Anniversary package (\$5,000); polished aluminum wheels (\$1,295)

Notes: The anniversary package includes a wide range of optional equipment.