

# ARIZONA DRIVER

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## SHELBY GT500KR "King of the Road" Returns

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# SHELBY GT500KR "KING OF THE ROAD"

- Celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the original Shelby Cobra GT500KR, Ford and Shelby collaborate on a new 'King of the Road' Mustang with the 2008 Shelby GT500KR.
- Shelby GT500KR features an estimated 540-hp 5.4-liter supercharged V-8 with a Ford Racing Power Upgrade Pack, 3.73:1 rear axle ratio, short-throw shifter, and unique suspension tuning.
- Exterior design draws inspiration from the classic Shelby KR Mustangs and features unique carbon composite hood, wheels, and special 40th Anniversary badging and unique striping.
- Shelby GT500KR arrives in spring 2008 in an exclusive run of only 1000 units.



**MORE  
MUSTANG  
POWER:  
FORD  
SHELBY  
GT500KR  
'KING OF  
THE ROAD'  
RETURNS  
IN 2008**



Ford and Shelby Automobiles are at it again, this time in celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the 1968 Shelby Cobra GT500KR. Unveiled at the 2007 New York International Auto Show, the 2008 Shelby GT500KR—the most powerful Mustang to date—will once again mark Mustang as “King of the Road.”

“I’m proud to once again be a part of an historical moment, bringing back the ‘King of the Road’ Mustang, and collaborating with Ford SVT and Ford Racing” said Carroll Shelby. “I’m committed to continuously upping the ante when it comes to performance, and it’s great to be doing it with Ford.”

Forty years ago, at the 1967 New York Auto Show, Ford introduced the most powerful Shelby Mustang ever. Like every Mustang that bore the name “Shelby,” the GT500KR carries its own unique story.

The 1968 Shelby Cobra GT500KR was a mid-year introduction, based on the 1968 Shelby GT500. Ford added “Cobra” to the Shelby’s moniker to help usher in the beginning of a new performance era at the company. The Cobra name referred to the new 428 Cobra Jet V-8 that was planted under the KR’s custom fiberglass

hood. It was the engine that once again vaulted Mustang to the head of the pack.

Ford conservatively rated the 428 CJ at 335 horsepower, but in reality it made more than 400 horsepower and 440 pounds-feet of torque. The KR model was also equipped with a modified suspension and was offered both in fastback and convertible models. Ford dealers sold 1,570 GT500KR models in 1968, 1053 fastbacks and 517 convertibles.

While “King of the Road” may have been the perfect name for the world’s most powerful Mustang, it also provided Shelby the chance to steal the thunder from cross-town rival General Motors. As the legend goes, Shelby learned that GM was planning a high-performance model called “King of the Road.” Since he had always wanted to use the name, and as one to never miss an opportunity, Shelby set his organization in gear, registering the name and designing new badging for the Cobra Jet-powered Mustang, christening it the GT500KR, and bringing Ford’s “King of the Road” to market before GM ever got a chance to use the name.



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### THOROUGHbred PEDIGREE

Just like its 1968 namesake, the 2008 Ford Shelby GT500KR builds on the strong foundation of the Shelby GT500. Packing 40 more horses under its custom-designed carbon composite hood, the GT500KR is the most powerful production Ford Mustang ever produced.

The modern Shelby Mustang line-up started with the 2007 Shelby GT500 coupe and convertible. With the recent launch of the 2007 Shelby GT, the 2008 Shelby GT500KR becomes the third production high-performance Mustang brought to market through the relationship between Shelby Automobiles and Ford. They also partnered with Hertz to produce a special limited run of 500 Shelby GT-H "rent-a-racer" Mustangs available only for rent.

The 2007 Shelby GT500 has been one of the most successful vehicle programs in the 14-year history of Ford Special Vehicle Team (SVT), and that success has opened the door for more performance collaborations between Shelby Automobiles and Ford Racing. Working together, these three performance powerhouses are driving Mustang momentum on the street and on the racetrack. Dealers cannot keep the cars on their lots, customers are clamoring for more, and racers are bringing home championships.

The first 2007 Shelby GT500 available to the public sold for \$600,000 at the 2006 Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction in Scottsdale, benefiting the Carroll Shelby Children's Foundation. 2007 Shelby GT

VIN#1 also went for \$600,000 at charity auction, this time at the 2007 Barrett-Jackson auction (and the winning bidder also purchased VIN#2 at MSRP). Shelby GT-H coupes auctioned off to Ford dealers after completion of Hertz rental duty consistently average \$50,000, with high auction bids of \$90,000.

The Shelby GT500KR will be produced in an exclusive run of 1000 units and will arrive at Ford dealers in spring 2008.

### CROWNING THE "KING"

Ford SVT chief designer Doug Gaffka and his team worked closely with Carroll Shelby and the Shelby team to make certain the new KR was crafted in the spirit of the original Shelby muscle car.

Gary Davis, VP of production and product development for Shelby, played a key role in defining the look of the custom designed carbon composite hood for the GT500KR. His knowledge of the original GT500KR helped sculpt a modern interpretation of the original's bulging hood scoop, a visual indication of the extra horsepower packed beneath it. The hood is secured by a pair of stainless steel, twist-down hood pins. The composite front valance houses a pair of chrome-trimmed, functional brake ducts to cool the large 14-inch, vented Brembo front brakes.

Side stripes are true to the original KR right down to the font used for the 'GT500KR' lettering, while the classic LeMans-style striping that races down the center of the car has been deleted between the leading forward edge of the hood scoops and the front of the hood,

accenting the scoops and giving the KR its distinctive face. "That was Shelby's idea," said Gaffka. "It's a special touch that adds some down-the-road differentiation. There will be no doubt that it's a "King of the Road" Mustang that's filling up your rearview mirrors."

Each KR model is identified by special 40th Anniversary KR badges on the fenders and grille, distinctive body colored mirror caps and Shelby lettering stretching across the front of the hood and along the rear portion of the deck lid. A special Shelby VIN tag is mounted in the engine compartment of each vehicle.

The all-leather interior features Carroll Shelby signature embroidered headrests and an official Shelby CSM 40th Anniversary GT500KR dash plate mounted at the top of the center stack.

### 5.4-LITER V-8 GETS THE ROYAL TREATMENT

Just like its namesake, the 2008 "King of the Road" packs a walloping dose of performance power under its massive composite hood scoops. The Ford SVT-engineered 5.4-liter supercharged V-8 is treated to a Ford Racing Power Upgrade Pack that boosts horsepower to an estimated 540 and torque to 510 ft.-lbs., thanks to revised ignition and throttle calibration and a cold air intake system that replaces the stock unit.

Calibration modifications include advancing the ignition timing as well as re-mapping of the electronic throttle settings to provide quicker throttle response for better off-line and mid-range



2008 Ford Shelby GT500KR Racing Legend Carroll Shelby (right) joins J Mays, Ford's Group Vice President, Design, at the 2007 New York International Auto Show to debut the most powerful Mustang ever—the 2008 Ford Shelby GT500KR, created to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the original 1968 GT500KR "King of the Road". Photo: Sam VarnHagen/Ford.

acceleration. Increased throttle response will be met with a sharper roar from the Ford Racing-inspired exhaust system.

Power is delivered to the rear wheels through a Tremec TR6060 six-speed manual transmission and 3.73:1 rear axle ratio, upgraded from the standard GT500's 3.31:1. Gear selection is courtesy of an all-new Ford Racing short-throw shifter making its debut on the KR. Topped with a white ball, the new shifter is 25 percent shorter than the unit on the GT500 providing for crisper, sharper shifts.

Ford SVT, Ford Racing and Team Shelby worked together to develop the KR's suspension tuning. Based on initial work by Ford Racing and the team at Shelby, often at Shelby's own facility on the grounds of Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Ford SVT chassis engineers will apply fine tuning techniques to prepare it for the streets. Chassis engineers worked closely with the engine department in a holistic approach to the development of the KR, tuning the suspension to best optimize the engine enhancements. The

show car wears exclusive Shelby-designed 20-inch forged, polished aluminum wheels with special custom center caps, mounted on Pirelli rubber. Production models will arrive with an 18-inch version of the design.

"We aren't fixing our attention on one or two attributes, but working on the vehicle as a whole," stated Gary Patterson, vice president of operations for Shelby Automobiles. "The throttle response, power delivery, exhaust note, and handling should all gel together to deliver a total driving experience."

The show car wears exclusive Shelby-designed 20-inch forged, polished aluminum wheels with special custom center caps, mounted on Pirelli rubber. Production models will arrive with an 18-inch version of the design. The GT500KR will feature unique spring rates, dampers, stabilizer bars, and strut tower brace, all designed specifically for the KR, to deliver the precision handling package.



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## MUSTANG MOMENTUM

Unwilling to wait for the impending pony car war to heat up, Ford is feeding enthusiast demand for more models, features, parts, and special editions. Ford has committed to at least one new Mustang “feature” vehicle per year. For 2007, it is the Shelby GT, and for 2008, there will be at least two, including the Shelby GT500KR and the previously announced Mustang Bullitt. Ford has also introduced several special packages on Mustang further increasing its unique offerings, including the Pony Package and the California

Special. In addition, Ford Racing offers a complete catalog of performance parts for Mustang fans, from custom wheels and exhausts to the complete, turn-key Ford Racing Mustang FR500C race car. As a result, Ford offers Mustang enthusiasts the ability to buy, modify and drive the steed that perfectly fits their need. (See our feature on the new Red Stripe Appearance Package, page 24.) There are currently four horsepower options for Mustang, with pricing from \$19,995 for a 240-hp V-6 Mustang coupe to \$46,500 for a 500-hp Shelby GT500 convertible. ■



## GT500KR SPECIFICATIONS & DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

- 5.4-liter supercharged V-8 producing an estimated 540-hp and 510 ft.-lbs. of torque
- Ford Racing Power Upgrade Pack featuring revised calibration and cold air intake system
- 6-speed manual transmission with 3.73:1 rear axle ratio
- Ford Racing performance exhaust system
- Unique performance suspension tuning: springs, dampers, and stabilizer bars
- Shelby-designed ‘GT500KR’ 20-inch wheels (18-inch version for production)
- Ford Racing short-throw shifter and front strut tower brace
- Unique carbon composite hood featuring classic Shelby ‘KR’ design
- Front brake cooling ducts
- “Shelby” lettering across the front edge of hood and rear decklid
- 40th Anniversary badges on the front quarter panels
- Carroll Shelby signature embroidered headrests and floor mats
- Official Shelby CSM 40th Anniversary GT500KR dash plate

