

# Corvette's Supercar


The ZR-1 delivers world-class performance BY BRIAN DOUGLAS

PHOTO BY BRIAN DOUGLAS



op an aluminum, double overhead cam engine, hand-built by Mercury Marine for its ZR-1. If you own a nice example of any ZR-1, you'll more than get your money back.

## Quick Road Work

My good friend and fellow car enthusiast and I recently zipped up a fun, two-lane road into the mountains in his ZR-1. From its fearsome howl at startup to the catlike whine of the supercharger during light throttle applications, the ZR-1 delivers sonic amusement. And with all that power on tap, there's little need for more than light-handed inputs to move with alacrity. Although my friend changed the cup racing tires for more suitable Michelin Pilot Super Sports, reflexes are quick and precise in the best grin-producing fashion. The upcoming mid-engine model is creating lots of buzz, but it will have to be really special to nudge the ZR-1 from its perch atop the hill. 

## Feeding the Beast

Amazing power along with a chassis and brake system capable of dealing with the thrust is a decades-old formula for supercar success. Today's standard Corvette (\$60,590) produces 455 horsepower, plenty to push its 3,362-pound curb weight with enthusiasm. Add another \$26,210 for the Z06 edition and you've added a supercharger plus other enhancements to make 650 HP available. Or, just double the standard Corvette's price for our ZR-1 test car, with its 755 horses under the carbon fiber hood and big, functional wing bolted to the frame, and you're unlikely to encounter serious rivals.

Corvette's first ZR-1 was built for competition and added a modified engine, better brakes, suspension, and cooling while subtracting power windows, power steering, air conditioning, and the radio, among other non-track attributes. Just 53 lucky buyers owned this edition. And from 1990 through 1995, Corvette teamed with then subsidiary Lotus to devel-

**I**N AUTOMOTIVE LINGO, the moniker "supercar" is most often applied to sports cars that possess the capability to legally drive to a racetrack and deliver nearly the same blistering lap times as competition cars. Supercars are also what you bring to a local meet-up, a cars-and-coffee gathering, or to your high school reunion.

## America's Sports Car

For more than six decades, America's mainstream automaker Chevrolet has continually produced Corvette models. That's longer than Chevy's ubiquitous Impala, a model in its last year whose lifespan is even a decade longer than the legendary Porsche 911. But there's also a marketplace for exotic, expensive sports cars in the supercar category where brands including Lamborghini, Ferrari, and Aston Martin compete. And this rare category even includes Ford, with its \$450,000 GT offering.

### 2019 Chevrolet Corvette ZR-1

**TYPE:** Front engine, rear-wheel drive

**MOTORS:** 6.2-liter Supercharged V8

**HORSEPOWER:** 775 @ 6,300 RPM

**TORQUE:** 715 lb.ft. @ 4,400 RPM

**BASE PRICE:** \$122,900  
**PRICE AS TESTED:** \$144,115

**FUEL CONSUMPTION:** 12 city  
20 highway  
15 combined