



2026 WORLD CAR FINALS POWERED BY BREMBO

TOP THREE IN THE WORLD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

TORONTO, Canada – Tuesday, March 3, 2026 – For Immediate Release

The **WORLD CAR FINALS Powered by Brembo** continues today with the announcement of the **Top Three in the World** finalists in six World Car Awards categories. The countdown ends on April 1st when the winners will be announced live at the 2026 New York International Auto Show during an awards ceremony that is part of the show's opening media breakfast.

[A jury of 98 distinguished international automotive journalists](#) from 33 countries selected the *Top Three in the World* finalists by secret ballot based on their evaluation of each eligible vehicle as part of their on-going professional work. Today's vote results have been tabulated by KPMG.



The ***Top Three in the World*** finalists for each category are:

World Car of the Year

- BMW iX3
- Hyundai Palisade
- Nissan Leaf

World Electric Vehicle

- BMW iX3
- Mercedes-Benz CLA
- Nissan Leaf

World Luxury Car

- Cadillac Vistiq
- Lucid Gravity
- Volvo ES90

World Performance Car

- BMW M2 CS
- Chevrolet Corvette E-Ray
- Hyundai Ioniq 6 N

World Urban Car

- Baojun Yep Plus / Chevrolet Spark EUV
- Firefly
- Hyundai Venue

World Car Design of the Year

- Kia PV5
- Mazda 6e / EZ-6
- Volvo ES90

A design panel consisting of seven highly respected global design experts was asked to first review each candidate and establish a short-list of recommendations for the jurors' final vote. The design experts were, in alphabetical order: **Anja Bracht** (Germany - Pforzheim University), **Marek Djordjevic** (USA - Chair of Transportation Design, Art Center College of Design), **Fabio Filippini** (Japan - ACCAEFFE Creative Consulting), **Antony Grade** (Retired –

Renault), **Gert Hildebrand** (Germany - Owner Hildebrand-Design), **Victor Nacif** (USA - Chief Creative Officer, Brojure.com and Design instructor, New School of Architecture and Design) and **Shiro Nakamura** (Japan - CEO, Shiro Nakamura Design Associates Inc.)

World Car Award winners will be announced live at the New York International Auto Show on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**. 2026 marks the 21st year of the World Car Awards' partnership with the **New York International Auto Show**.

Mark Schienberg, president of the New York International Auto Show, said, "The announcement of the finalists is an important moment for the global automotive industry as it represents one of the most respected honors in our business. The anticipation surrounding this year's contenders reflects the innovation, performance, and vision shaping the future of mobility, and we extend our congratulations to the finalists and to the World Car organization for its continued leadership."

The Road to the World Car Awards is an annual journey that follows our international jurors as they test-drive, and vote on, the eligible vehicles for the awards' season. The jurors' road-test journey is captured virtually on [World Car TV](#). The jurors provide viewers with reviews and commentary on the awards' eligible vehicles in the six categories listed above.

The World Car Awards program would not be possible without the support of our official partners: [AITASTIC Research & Consult](#), [BREMBO](#), the [NEW YORK International Auto Show](#), [KPMG](#) and [Newspress](#)

VIDEO – [WORLD CAR TV](#)

THE ROAD TO WORLD CAR 2026

Began: September 8, 2025

Ends at the New York International Auto Show: Wednesday, April 1, 2026

FOLLOW OUR 98 INTERNATIONAL JURORS:

World Car TV: [YouTube.com/worldcartv](https://www.youtube.com/worldcartv)

Instagram: @theworldcarawards #wcoty #wca2026 #WorldCarAwards

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WorldCarAwards #worldcarawards #wca2026

**CELEBRATING THE BEST OF TODAY.
EMBRACING THE BEST OF TOMORROW.**

For additional information please visit worldcarawards.com or contact us at:
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ABOUT

World Car Awards

It is the mission of the World Car Awards and its 98 global journalists on the jury panel to recognize, reward and inspire automotive excellence, leadership and innovation in a rapidly changing automotive industry on a global scale.

To that end we test drive and evaluate new or fully redesigned vehicles that are for sale in multiple markets on more than one continent each year, voting to determine the World Car Design, World Luxury Car, World Performance Car, World Urban Car, World Electric Vehicle and World Car of the Year. Full vehicle eligibility requirements and our annual timeline can be found on our website.

Now in their 22nd year, the annual World Car Awards are the number one awards program in the world for the 13th consecutive year in terms of media reach and analysis of the top global markets.

The awards were inaugurated in 2003, and officially launched in January 2004, to reflect the reality of the global marketplace. The awards are intended to complement, not compete, with existing national and regional Car of the Year programs.

New York International Auto Show

The New York International Automobile Show, North America's first and largest-attended auto show, is an amazing combination of new ideas, technological innovation, and nearly 1,000 of the latest new cars and trucks on display. The Show is owned and produced by the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association each spring in Manhattan.

2026 Auto Show Dates

Press Preview: April 1 and 2, 2026 (credentials required)

Public Show Date: April 3–12, 2026

*Social Media: Twitter: @NYAutoShow Facebook: nyautoshow Instagram: nyautoshow
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