

Observer & Eccentric
STATISTICS ADVERTISING

CAReport



Grand Am's new powertrain gives it some giddy-up

Pontiac is adding a little more excitement to the 1995 Grand Am by blessing it with General Motors' pride and joy, the Quad 4 engine.

This 4-cylinder 16-valve 2.3-liter dual overhead cam Quad 4 engine justifies the Grand Am's competition — namely the Ford Probe GT, Nissan Altima and Honda Accord.

Now, you may say, "What's the difference between the 2.3-liter engine that was in last year's Grand Am?" It's the difference between passing a 45-mile-per-hour Escort and a 5.0-liter Mustang going 65 in the fast lane.

Last year's Grand Am, though a respectable vehicle, just couldn't muster enough, Mr., to pass that Mustang. The new 150-horsepower Quad 4 can. Easily.

And just go ahead and mate this baby to the standard 5-speed manual transmission and you've got the



Road Test
By Anne
Fracassa

cutest, fastest, sportiest small coupe and sedan on the road today.

There are four models you can choose from in the new Grand Am — SE coupe, SE sedan, GT coupe and GT sedan.

This car is fun to drive. Lots of pep, sporty looks, interior styling and instrumentation that's smart and easy to understand and enough room for anyone to travel.

I'm not saying you'd want to take a cross country trek in the Grand Am, but to a few weekend trips it will go, go, go.

Optional on the Grand Am again this year is the 3100 V6 engine that delivers 155 horsepower. The Quad 4 does the job well, efficiently and with a lot of style. But if you really need that extra 5 horses

As for exterior styling on the new Grand Am, it's basically the same as last year. Since its introduction in 1985, the Grand Am has had only one major redesign. It's about due for another.

The new engine isn't the only thing that's new with Grand Am, however. Lots of tweaks have been made, including variable effort steering (available on the GT only);

a direct-drive power steering system replaces belt-drive power steering; the cruise-control system is new; 15-inch cast aluminum wheels replace 16-inches; there are some new wheelcover designs, and this year there are some new tire options.

Built in Lansing, Mich., the Grand Am's rear suspension has been improved for 1995 by relocating the spring to be in-line with the rear

wheel hub. GM officials said moving the spring reduces the effects of potholes and other road jolts, especially for rear-seat passengers, and results in a smoother, quieter ride.

There's a new color for Grand Am this year, medium dark purple metallic. Different.

Of course, Grand Am has a driver's-side airbag, anti-lock brakes and automatic brake/transmission shift interlock that won't let you shift from park unless the brake pedal is depressed. Other safety features include an energy-absorbing steering column; child comfort guides in rear seat safety belts, allowing a better fit for kids; a power-window lockout switch (on the sedan only); and rear door child safety locks.

Speaking of kids, they'll fit fine in the rear seats, whether in car seats, boosters or just by themselves. The rear seats have a generous area for adults as well.

The Grand Am is a sporty little number that's great for anyone with kids and provides just a little more excitement in your everyday life. Consider it.

If you'd like to see a particular model tested or if you have a car question, send Anne Fracassa a message at AVAN-TI1054, Avanti's America Online mailbox. Or comment through the Internet at AVAN-TI1054@aol.com.

Anne Fracassa is senior editor of Avanti NewsFeatures.

Vehicle Often Safest Port in a Storm

Driving after dark through a violent thunderstorm can be a nerve-racking experience. Even with the best of headlights, defrosters and windshield wipers, it's best to get off the road.

Unless you can find shelter in a well constructed building you'll probably have to stay in your vehicle. The danger of being struck by lightning still looms. What to do? Park in an open area, if possible, away from trees and power lines until the storm passes over.

If you're on the shoulder of the road turn on your emergency flashers. Because you're shielded by metal, your vehicle is one of the safest places in an electrical storm. If lightning does strike you may have the scare of a lifetime but you probably won't be injured.

Your car may need a new paint job, however, and more! If hailstones don't damage the finish, the lightning can scar the paint right off the metal, not to mention what it can do to the various electronic components.

Another hazard: downed power lines. If one should hit your car, starting a fire, open the door and jump as far as you can from the vehicle. NEVER TOUCH THE GROUND AND THE CAR AT THE SAME TIME. If there is no fire, your best bet is to stay in your vehicle and wait for help.

Pontiac Grand Am

Vehicle class.....	Compact
Engine.....	4-cylinder, 16-valve, 2.3-liter Quad 4
Mileage.....	21 city/31 highway
Where built.....	Lansing
Base price.....	\$13,399 coupe, \$13,499 sedan

QC1 AVIS FORD QC1 CHAIRMAN AWARD WINNER

\$ WHAT DO A, X AND Z PLAN BUYERS WANT? \$
THEY WANT MORE MONEY
FOR THEIR TRADE-INS. "A LOT MORE MONEY"
AVIS FORD GIVES MORE FOR EVERY TRADE-IN.

IN 1994 OVER 2000 A, X, AND Z PLAN BUYERS
TRADED IN THEIR USED CARS AND TRUCKS AT AVIS FORD.
THE REASON CONTINUES TO BE THAT AVIS FORD GIVES
MORE MONEY ON EACH & EVERY TRADE-IN.

\$ HAVE YOUR TRADE-IN APPRAISED AT AVIS FORD BEFORE YOU BUY \$



OPEN MONDAY
AND THURSDAY
7am to 9pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
OPEN 7am to 7pm

Avis Ford

The Dealership With A Heart
TELEGRAPH RD. SOUTHFIELD
Just North of 12 Mile Road

CALL
1-800-358-AVIS
or

355-7500