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Some of Aston Martin's most iconic cars have worn a Vantage badge, including the 1962 DB4 and 1977 V8 Vantage.

A Distinct Advantage

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF ASTON MARTIN'S VANTAGE

FOR 70 YEARS, some of the most prestigious and powerful Aston Martin models have all had one thing in common: the Vantage name. For 2020, the British sports car maker celebrates seven decades of the moniker which has been applied to more than a third of all the vehicles they've produced.

It first rolled out in 1950 with the debut of the DB2. As would soon become clear, the title stood for a vehicle equipped with an uprated engine. In this case, the car's standard 2.6-liter 105-horsepower Lagonda engine had been enhanced to deliver 125 horsepower. The project was overseen by a racing car design theorist and that performance-bred DNA has stayed with the iconic name up until modern day.

The next Vantage title showed up in 1961,

appearing on DB4 models. Besides an upgraded engine, subtle exterior design changes were made, too. In 1962, a DB4 Series V Vantage made its mark in cinematic history, being the svelte ride of choice for super-sleuth 007 in the James Bond film, "Goldfinger".

Other highlights include the 1977 V8 Vantage. It was hailed as 'Britain's first supercar', having the capability to outrun a Ferrari Daytona in zero to 60 sprints. That was thanks to an engine using high-performance camshafts, larger inlet valves, and bigger carburetors.

In 2013, Aston Martin unveiled the V12 Vantage S which came equipped with 565 horsepower. It also boasted a top speed of 205 mph, making it the fastest production car the brand had yet offered to the public.



Today, the current Vantage model boasts a 4.0-liter twin-turbocharged V8 engine, delivering 503 horsepower and 505 lb. ft of torque.

It's a storied, speed-oriented name, and one rightly cherished by driving enthusiasts the world over. U



Matt Avery is an automotive author and historian. His new book, "COPO", documents Chevy's ultimate muscle cars, showcasing over 40 of the world's best COPO examples. Learn more at COPOthebook.com