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FIRST GLANCE

# A Bentley That Flies at 195 Miles an Hour



Pascal Lauener/Reuters

Bentley Continental Flying Spur was first unveiled at the Geneva auto show in early March.

By **NICK KURCZEWSKI**

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**Introduced on Wednesday:** 2006 Bentley Continental Flying Spur

**What's the point?** Built on the architecture of the Continental Coupe, the Flying Spur is the next step in Volkswagen's rebuilding of the Bentley brand. Though the millions of dollars needed to develop the Flying Spur came from Bentley's German parent, this beefy sedan maintains a distinctly British accent.

**Is it real?** Bentley unveiled the car early this month at the Geneva auto show but this is its first appearance in the United States.

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**The company line:** It is the most usable supercar we've ever produced. -- Andrew Stuart, chief executive of Bentley.

**The view from here:** Despite having been shown in Geneva earlier this month, the Flying Spur drew a surprisingly large crowd to the Bentley press conference -- as soon as the sheet was lifted, journalists swarmed the car like angry cicadas. Bentley's combination of supercar performance in an ultra-luxury sedan with great style should have Maybach and Rolls Royce worried.

**What makes it tick?** A 552-horsepower twin-turbocharged W-12 engine and 6-speed automatic hustle the 5,450 pound four-door from 0 to 60 miles an hour in less than five seconds.

**How much? How soon?** The Flying Spur arrives in the United States this fall with a price tag of roughly \$160,000. But with a long waiting list, it may take a while longer to put one in your driveway.

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