

AUTOMOTIVE

End of the road for Bentley's legendary Mulsanne limousine as British automaker goes green

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Sign-off model: Bentley Mulsanne 6.75 Edition. Image courtesy of Bentley Motors

By STAFF REPORTS

Forty years after it first hit the roads, Bentley Motors' Mulsanne limousine will say goodbye with a limited-edition Mulliner variant restricted to only 30 cars.

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The vehicle that has ferried royals, celebrities, Old Money, politicians and the super-wealthy will be replaced by the new Flying Spur, which takes on the mantle of Bentley's flagship model and follows the automaker's new focus on greener cars.

"While production of the Mulsanne will end in spring 2020, this decision has been taken at a time when we are experiencing significant customer demand across our other existing model lines," said Chris Craft, member of the board for sales, marketing and aftersales at Bentley, in a statement.

"As such, we will be redeploying all of our manufacturing colleagues who currently work on the Mulsanne to other areas of the business," he said.



Rear view of the Mulsanne 6.75 by Mulliner Edition. Image courtesy of Bentley Motors

Final stretch

The **Bentley Mulsanne 6.75 Edition by Mulliner** a reference to the 6-liter engine that marks its 60th year in continuous production is the automaker's most driver-focused version of that car.

"The Mulsanne has played a pivotal role in maintaining Bentley's position as global leader of the luxury limousine segment," Mr. Craft said.

"The flagship of our model range, its longevity is a testament to our ongoing commitment to hand-building the finest motor cars in the world," he said. "The new Mulsanne 6.75 Edition is the culmination of that achievement.



Front cabin of the Bentley Mulsanne 6.75 Edition by Mulliner. Image courtesy of Bentley Motors

The Mulsanne first went into production in 1980 when Bentley and Rolls-Royce were acquired by British aeronautical giant Vickers. In 1998 Vickers sold its auto business, with Bentley finally going to Volkswagen and the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars brand licensed to BMW.

Bentley produces its cars in Crewe, England.

The send-off Mulsanne will get more-than-usual luxury upgrades in exterior and interior options, with special paint, lamps, grille, leather seats, grille, wheel, cabin and engine treatments.

So much so that the engine number plaque normally bearing the signature of the craftsman that built the engine will be signed by Adrian Hallmark, chairman/CEO of Bentley.



The Bentley Flying Spur, now the new flagship of the British automaker. Image courtesy of Bentley Motors

ONCE THE Mulsanne is off-production, the Flying Spur will get a hybrid powertrain by 2023 as Bentley moves to a future of sustainable luxury mobility.

In a first step toward that goal, the Bentley Bentayga SUV now has a plug-in hybrid variant, making it the most fuel-efficient model in the automaker's lineup.

The Mulsanne W.O. Edition by Mulliner to mark Bentley's centenary in 2018