

# PFO 'PURE DESIGN' PHILOSOPHY JUDGED A SUCCESS IN PEBBLE BEACH

- > Automobili Pininfarina releases PFO concept photograph following positive feedback relating to design purity and performance aerodynamics
- > Four days of Pebble Beach private viewings produce strong demand for limited PFO allocation and significant interest from leading US luxury car retailers
- > Automobili Pininfarina's luxury electric production hypercar to return to Monterey Car Week in 2019 after successful six weeks of US launch activity
- > Emotive short films released during Monterey Car Week shed light on past inspirations and future design aspirations for the new car brand

(Monterey/Munich, 28 August 2018): Automobili Pininfarina has released the first official image of the PFO electric hypercar concept model following a positive programme of private viewings in Pebble Beach during the Monterey Car Week in California, August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. The management team at Automobili Pininfarina now returns to their German and Italian headquarters to plan the PFO concept model's European and Middle East private preview events.

Automobili Pininfarina CEO, Michael Perschke and Design Director, Luca Borgogno arrived in New York in mid-July to begin a six-week US launch programme to present the PFO and Automobili Pininfarina's long-term business plans to luxury car retailers and first customers. The US launch activity culminated last weekend in a successful introduction of the PFO concept model to invited guests in Pebble Beach — vital for the new car brand as the US will be its strongest market given the demand for electric cars, performance cars and, historically, Pininfarina-styled cars.

Prospective clients of the limited-run hypercar will be the ultimate judges of the PFO design, and four days of private viewings hosted by Perschke and Borgogno have left the new team encouraged and excited by initial feedback. The overwhelming response highlighted how successfully the PFO balances overall design purity and elegance with innovative functional treatment of aerodynamic surfaces and structures.

Michael Perschke, Automobili Pininfarina CEO, said: "For a new car company, this US launch programme was hugely challenging, exciting and ultimately rewarding. Our guests in Pebble Beach were classic and performance car aficionados and judged that the PFO design delivered the right balance of beauty and functional performance visuals. They came to see classic Pininfarina and weren't disappointed.

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"Most importantly, we have some great feedback from clients who have owned numerous Pininfarina-styled supercars. We know we are on the right track and we will now return to Europe to deliver on our aim of producing the world's most beautiful, innovative and rare hypercar."

Six months before the final PFO design and name are revealed at the Geneva Auto Show in March 2019, the Pebble Beach feedback also indicates that demand will outstrip supply for what will be the first production road car designed, produced and branded Pininfarina – a long-held family dream of founder, Battista 'Pinin' Farina.

Luca Borgogno, Automobili Pininfarina Design Director, said: "Our ambition for PFO is based on classic Pininfarina principles – to combine elegance and beauty with functional design that defines a new product vision. From 2020, the world will see the emergence of luxury electric hypercars that set new standards for performance and visual drama. Cars dreamt about, but not yet seen on the road.

"As with Pininfarina cars of the past, PFO has to stand-out in an emerging sector — beauty and performance to make your heart skip a beat. You can see that impact in the PFO rear view treatment where the car's performance potential is functionally defined by dramatic wings, and its beauty highlighted by the overall form — purity and elegance of design has not been lost to the battle for downforce or cooling."

Two emotive short films produced by Automobili Pininfarina during Monterey Car Week shed light on the inspiration and motivation behind the company's plans for a range of beautiful, luxurious and exclusive Pininfarina-branded electric cars:

<u>1947 Pininfarina Cisitalia - Heritage Shapes the Future</u> <u>Realizing Battista Pininfarina's Dream</u>

#### Automobili Pininfarina and the PFO

Automobili Pininfarina was announced in Rome in April 2018 as the world's newest car brand with an ambition to sustainably develop and produce fully-electric, ultra-luxury cars at the pinnacle of design and desirability in their respective segments.

The Munich-based company will offer a range of cars designed and hand-crafted by legendary Italian automotive styling house Pininfarina SpA. Fundamental to PFO, as with all Pininfarina-designed cars, is an absolute desire to deliver innovation in engineering, technology and performance wrapped in a beautiful skin. As a result, extreme levels of technology and functional design lie beneath the PFO concept model's carbon-fibre exterior, supporting the delivery of staggering performance for a road car, accelerating to 62 mph in less than two seconds, breaking the 250 mph top speed barrier, and providing a potential zero emissions range of over 300 miles.

Previously released sketch images of the PFO have presented a full carbon body that is curvaceous and sculptural, encased in sweeping glass. A single dynamic strip of light cascades from the front of the car and takes the place of traditional headlights. Inside the car, the cockpit is focused around a 'vanishing point' concept for the main dashboard display that will look unique and exciting, focusing the driver's attention on the job in hand — a new definition of a driver-centric layout.

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www.automobili-pininfarina.com/media-zone

### **Editor's notes**

Automobili Pininfarina is based in operational headquarters in Munich, Germany, with a team of experienced automotive executives from luxury and premium car brands. Designed, developed and produced in Germany and Italy, all models will be sold and serviced in all major global markets under the brand name Pininfarina. The new company aims to be the most sustainable luxury car brand in the world.

The company is a 100 per cent Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd investment and has been named Automobili Pininfarina following the signing of a trademark licence agreement between Pininfarina SpA and Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. Pininfarina SpA will take an influential role in supporting design and production capacities based on their unique almost 90-year experience of producing many of the world's most iconic cars.

Anand Mahindra, Chairman, Mahindra & Mahindra, Paolo Pininfarina, Chairman of Pininfarina SpA, and Dr. Pawan Goenka, Chairman, Mahindra Racing, launched the new car brand with Michael Perschke, CEO Automobili Pininfarina at the Rome Formula E race on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Mahindra has quickly built up experience of cutting-edge 'race-to-road' sustainable high-performance technological innovation having competed in every Formula E race since the world's most innovative motor racing series began in 2013.

Automobili Pininfarina will combine this 'in-house' expertise in partnership with some of the world's leading automotive design and engineering suppliers to support its aggressive targets for performance and market launch in late 2020.