Auto China Beijing 2012 (with Photo Gallery)

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China is the world’s largest sales territory with a vehicle market of 18.5 million. And it is still growing, especially on the luxury side. Most premium car makers are now offering cars targeting this market. There are now 476 different models on sale in China, and about 80 new models will join this year.

There have been 120 global unveils at the Auto China 2012 motor show, with big brands like Mercedes, BMW, Volkswagen and Citroën launching cars for the first time along with many Chinese domestic brands. While China market will probably diversify soon, nowadays the majority of cars in China are three-box sedans.

Just some data to notice the importance of Chinese market for western OEMs; in the first quarter of 2012, 29% of Volkswagen Group sales worldwide were in China and last year GM sold more than 2.5 million vehicles in China.

Around 40% of China's potential new car buyers are under 30 years old, so expect more youthful oriented designs.

While at the moment Chinese designed and manufactured cars do not seem to fulfill European expectations, the evolution from previous years is clear, so we should expect Chinese cars for sale in western markets soon.

In comparison to European shows "eco" themes doesn't seem to be an important issue yet.

Citroën's upmarket DS sub-brand will be launched in China this year and, to mark the event, Citroën has designed a new concept car, Numéro 9, which signals the styling cues of the next three DS line models: a C-segment premium sedan, an SUV and a D-segment saloon."

Denza presented the first New Energy Vehicle (NEV) brand in the Chinese market, the result of the partnership between BYD and Daimler.

Mercedes' Chinese design studio is behind the new Denza concept that will become a production reality as early as next year.

Chery presented a scissor-doored pair of vehicles that suggest a docking system able to form a bigger energy-saving car train, though there's a lack of information on this concept.

Toyota unveiled two sedans and a hatchback. All are said to be hybrids sporting looks scheduled to make production in 2015.