

BMW zips ahead of other car manufacturers, and Paul Smith makes a new friend. . . .

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BITE-SIZE WONDER * At a time when robust-looking X-series, Q-series and GLK-class SUV models from luxury German marques are battling it out to dominate Indian roads, BMW (www.bmw.in) recently launched its iconic range—**BMW MINI** (www.mini.com)—which can deftly cut through traffic thanks to its appealing dimensions and swift ‘Go-kart’ manoeuvring capability. The family of three models in the collection—the MINI Hatch (Cooper and Cooper S), MINI Convertible, and the latest four-door MINI Countryman—are priced between ₹25 lakh and ₹35.9 lakh. The Cooper Convertible (pictured above) offers 122 hp at 6,000 rpm and a top speed of 198 kmph. The entire range is on display in the company’s first exclusive MINI dealership in the country, which was launched earlier this year in New Delhi. . . .

TWINKLE TOES * A collaboration between John Lobb (www.johnlobb.com) and Paul Smith (www.paulsmith.co.uk) made the latter’s Spring Summer show a shoe-in for success in Paris this July. The duo has combined three iconic John Lobb designs with Paul Smith’s penchant for bright colours to introduce the **Paul Smith and John Lobb collection**. The oxfords, christened Westbourne, feature a punctured toe and sport laces that resemble Paul Smith’s signature stripes. The vamp derby shoes (Willoughby) are made of cashmere suede, with soles whose edges contrast with the upper material, and are available in four colours—as are the oxfords. The last style, called Lucca, is a pair of loafers fashioned out of full-grain calf suede. This special-edition collection (prices on request) will be available this month onwards at John Lobb stores and select Paul Smith boutiques. . . .



PROFOUND SOUND * Following the French may not be a bad idea when it comes to loudspeakers. Triangle (www.triangle-fr.com) has launched its latest range of speakers, **Color**, that comprises three sets based on size—Bookshelf, Floorstander and Centre Channel, which are priced between ₹62,600 to ₹1.2 lakh. Employing the technology of Magallen speakers, they feature a titanium dome tweeter and provide excellent bass frequency of 400 Hz. The collection is finished in piano lacquer and comes in red, white and black. The Color range is available in India through FX Entertainment (www.fxentertainment.in). . . .

From top: BMW MINI Cooper Convertible; Triangle’s Color speakers; Lucca loafers from the Paul Smith and John Lobb collection

