

New cars: What the critics say

Automobile

Conceived in the 1960s as a stripped-down, souped-up racetrack version of Chevy's iconic roadster, the Grand Sport has now returned, in an unlimited production version that "bridges the gap" between base-model and higher-performance Corvettes. "We love the Corvette for its balance and capability, and the Grand Sport is no exception."

The New York Times

"This is a great-looking Corvette" that combines supercar performance with around-town handling and fuel consumption that's surprisingly good, "considering

its muscularity." Cosmetic flaws include a "plasticky interior" with seats wrapped in "bachelor-pad chintzy" leather. But driving enthusiasts won't care: The GS' "tremendous road-holding and braking quickly build up a driver's confidence," and an optional dual-mode exhaust boosts power to 436 hp. Under high acceleration, valves open "to let the V8's *cri de coeur* be heard for blocks."

Car and Driver

The Grand Sport is "a meat-and-potatoes kind of sports car," with a race-ready oiling system, sophisticated suspension, "gobs of torque, and tons of grip." It's not



2010 Corvette Grand Sport

Price: \$55,720

the most svelte sports car on the road: A "shortage of steering feel and sumo-like body width" betray its made-in-Detroit muscle-car heritage. But "big performance, big luggage space, and big value still abound."

The best ... lunchboxes



Mr. Bento Stainless Steel Lunch Jar Set

"Part Japanese bento box and part American soup thermos," this lunchbox holds four microwavable containers, all in different sizes to "help with portion control."

Price: \$67.95

Contact: Lunchboxes.com

Source: Slate.com



Built Gourmet Getaway Tote

Though this tote resembles a "squat winter squash," it expands to accommodate plenty of food, and after lunch it can be tucked inside a larger bag or purse.

Price: \$22

Contact: BuiltNY.com

Source: Slate.com



Artemis Bento Boxes

These anime-inspired boxes are a "hip-yet-practical way to pack a school lunch." Double-deckers fit a full meal, while smaller sizes are perfect for snacks.

Price: \$17.95

Contact: Japanistic.com

Source: Disney Family Fun



Kids Uno Bucket

The large zippered top of this lunch bucket makes it easy for kids to "get at the goodies stashed inside," while its easy-to-clean plastic interior keeps stains from sticking.

Price: \$10

Contact: Arcticzone.com

Source: Good Housekeeping



Vintage Alphabet Lunch Sack

"Little ones just might learn over lunch" with this clever take on the "brown-bag design." The bag comes with a "handle for toting" and a Velcro closure.

Price: \$15

Contact: Oreoriginals.com

Source: Good Housekeeping

Tip of the week ...

how to save a wet cell phone

■ **Act fast.** Remove the battery and SIM card, where your personal information is stored. "Shake the phone gently to get rid of liquid, then blot off excess."

■ **Check the salt content.** Seawater corrodes electronics. If the phone took an ocean dip, take it apart and "rinse it with fresh water" before drying.

■ **Dry it out.** Remove the casing and open any panels to expose circuitry. Place in an airtight container of uncooked rice, which will draw out water overnight.

■ **Suck it up.** A hand vacuum cleaner can suck out moisture. Don't try a blow dryer; it will only "force water deeper inside."

■ **Give it juice.** If the phone doesn't turn on after being reassembled, plug it in to recharge. "Still dead as a doornail? Replace the battery and keep your fingers crossed."

Source: Ladies' Home Journal

And for those who have everything ...

The **Boxee Box** aims to make your cable box obsolete. The device hooks up as easily as any DVD player, then indexes and streams videos from more than 300 Internet content providers, including Netflix, Hulu, and MLB.TV. Using the remote, you can "navigate through thousands of Web videos on your TV, the same way you would your regular digital channel guide."

Price: \$199

Contact: Boxee.tv

Source: Popular Science



The Internet ...

sites for hungry gardeners

■ **Communitygarden.org** puts people in touch with their community gardens via the American Community Garden Association. Besides providing community outreach and social interaction, volunteers share knowledge about how to cut costs by cultivating food from small plots of land.

■ **Uga.edu/nchfp**, the official website for the National Center for Home Food Preservation, offers specifics and precautions about canning, freezing, and storing fruits and vegetables. Readers can learn not only how to can and freeze food but also how to ferment, pickle, cure, and smoke.

■ **Lifeonthebalcony.com** shows city dwellers how to grow produce on small decks, patios, and balconies via container gardening. Resources are also available on how to use plants to create privacy and reduce noise.

Source: Family Circle