



By appointment  
to HM The Queen  
motor car manufacturers  
Bentley Motors Limited  
Crewe Cheshire



By appointment  
to HRH The Prince of Wales  
motor car manufacturers  
Bentley Motors Limited  
Crewe Cheshire



**BENTLEY**

## Press Information

### **BACALAR SPEARHEADS BENTLEY MULLINER'S RETURN TO THE PINNACLE OF COACHBUILDING**

- **Most exclusive and bespoke Bentley of the modern era revealed at Bentley's headquarters in Crewe, England**
- **Two-seat Bacalar marks return to bespoke coachbuilding for Bentley Mulliner – the oldest coachbuilding company in the world**
- **Bentley Mulliner announces new three-portfolio future: Classic, Collections and Coachbuilt**
- **'Barchetta' design delivers the ultimate expression of open-top, driver-focused grand touring**
- **Enhanced 6.0-liter W12 TSI engine produces 650 bhp (659 PS)**
- **Just 12 distinctive cars to be designed, engineered and handcrafted to individual customers' tastes – all already allocated**
- **Design DNA and sustainable materials inspired by the EXP 100 GT concept car, launched last summer to celebrate Bentley's centenary**
- **Sustainable craftsmanship and ethically-sourced materials include rice husk ash paint and 5,000-year-old Riverwood**
- **Bacalar to be produced in world's first certified carbon neutral factory for luxury car production**
- **Ultra-modern design includes extreme wrap-around cockpit and semi-enclosed rear compartment for bespoke Schedoni luggage**

#### **Wayne Bruce**

Director of Communications  
wayne.bruce@bentley.co.uk  
+44 (0) 7780 004537

#### **Mike Sayer**

Head of Product Communications  
mike.sayer@bentley.co.uk  
+44 (0) 7507 846782

#### **Bentley Motors Ltd**

Pyms Lane  
Crewe  
CW1 3PL

www.bentleymedia.com  
communications@bentley.co.uk  
@BentleyComms

**(Crewe, March 3, 2020)** Bentley Mulliner revealed the all-new Bacalar at the home of Bentley in Crewe, England this morning. The rarest two-door Bentley of the modern era, and the ultimate expression of two-seat, open-air luxury, this definitive Grand Tourer spearheads a return to coachbuilding by Bentley Mulliner – the oldest coachbuilder in the world.



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Just 12 examples of this striking, limited edition model are being created, guaranteeing rarity and exclusivity, and offering supreme luxury and breathtaking performance. Bacalar looks to the future of bespoke luxury motoring – each model will be handcrafted in Bentley Mulliner’s workshop in Crewe, according to the individual customer’s personal tastes.

This exceptionally rare car is appropriately named after Laguna Bacalar in Mexico’s Yucatán peninsula, a lake renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty, continuing Bentley’s strategy of naming cars after remarkable landmarks which started with Bentayga in 2015.

Bacalar was brought to life by Bentley Mulliner, reviving its specialism in providing rare coachbuilt cars to only a few discerning customers. A roofless Barchetta design with all-new and highly muscular coachwork, embracing a myriad of options and materials, each Bacalar will be truly unique, the result of direct interaction between the Bentley Mulliner design team and the individual customer.

The most exclusive two-door Bentley of the modern era launches a new Bentley Mulliner operation, and forms part of a new strategy for the world’s oldest coachbuilder that will see the division offer three different portfolios: Classic, Collections and Coachbuilt.

Bentley Mulliner has an illustrious history and can proudly trace its roots back to the 1500s when the company’s original focus was customizing luxurious, horse-drawn carriages. The remarkable Bacalar is therefore the culmination of almost 500 years of expertise and heritage in the art of vehicle design.

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Adrian Hallmark, Chairman and Chief Executive of Bentley Motors, comments:

“The Bentley Mulliner Bacalar is our ultimate expression of an open-top, luxury Grand Tourer, and of the immense capabilities of our team in Crewe.

“In Bacalar, we have created a fully bespoke Bentley, orientated towards a two-seat open top experience, and carrying a number of the forward thinking elements of future luxury, first heralded in our EXP 100 GT as part of our Centenary celebrations last year.

“Bacalar is a rare and remarkable Bentley, and whilst clearly defined, will be an extraordinary and collaborative experience for just twelve discerning people who will now co-create, collect, drive and treasure one of 12 being built.

“Our customers are as excited as we are about Bacalar, as it brings our team and discerning enthusiasts together, to create the finest bespoke, hand-built cars, and push the boundaries of our imagination and capabilities.”

A masterpiece of craftsmanship, the Bacalar is a seamless fusion of materials with an intelligent curation of technology. It draws on design DNA from the beautifully sculpted, award-winning EXP 100 GT which was recently crowned ‘Most Beautiful Concept Car of the Year’ at the prestigious French Festival Automobile International and ‘Concept Car of the Year’ by GQ magazine.

A statement of purpose for the future, Bacalar now propels Bentley into a new century of extraordinary, as the design team envisaged the most dynamically sculpted model to date. The dramatic, tapered cowls at the rear hark back to the Barchetta sports cars of old, while underlining the promise of a dynamic, driver-focused adventure in a cossetting, cocooned environment.

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Pure in line and execution, the distinctive, wraparound cockpit flows from a new, steeply angled center console seamlessly into the dashboard and doors. These then wrap rearwards towards the semi-enclosed luggage compartment behind the two seats.

Sustainable, ethically-sourced materials previewed in the EXP 100 GT concept car last year now become reality in the Bacalar – just eight months after first being previewed. These include paint containing ash from rice husks, which provides a sustainable way of delivering a rich metallic finish, natural British wool and 5,000-year-old Riverwood sourced from the ancient Fenlands of East Anglia.

The Bacalar features an enhanced version of Bentley's peerless 6.0-liter, W12 TSI engine. The most advanced 12-cylinder engine in the world, it produces 650 bhp (659 PS) and 667 lb.ft. (900 Nm) of torque.

An advanced Active All-Wheel-Drive System varies the torque split between front and rear wheels. It allows the Bacalar to use rear-wheel drive as much as possible during normal driving for optimum efficiency and dynamic performance. The drivetrain is at the heart of the Bacalar, creating the ultimate open-air, two-seat luxury Grand Tourer available in the world today.

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All examples of the exquisite Bentley Mulliner Bacalar were already allocated to customers from around the world.

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Crewe  
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www.bentleymedia.com  
communications@bentley.co.uk  
@BentleyComms

## **Bentley Mulliner Returns To Coachbuilding**

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With the Bacalar, customers will again have the ability to work closely with a team of specialist designers to enhance their vehicle with a selection of unique materials and specially curated options. The Bacalar will be the first – but



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other new bespoke Bentleys will follow as part of the Bentley Mulliner Coachbuilt portfolio – one of three new divisions of the Bentley Mulliner organization.

The Bentley Mulliner Classic offering was introduced last year with the announcement that Bentley's 1929 Team Blower is to be reborn with a new build of 12 supercharged 4½-liter examples of the iconic car. These models, each individually handcrafted by a team of specialists from Bentley Mulliner, will form the world's first pre-war race car continuation series. This subdivision of Mulliner also completed an immaculate restoration of the 1939 Bentley Corniche last year.

The third arm of the business – Bentley Mulliner Collections – will continue to offer customers luxury-focused derivatives of the core Bentley range, such as the new Continental GT Mulliner Convertible, as well as the opportunity to personalize their new Bentley. An expansive number of options is available across the full lineup of current production cars – from unique color-matched paint, hide and thread combinations, to bespoke feature content.

Tracy Crump, Bentley Mulliner's Head of Commercial Operations, comments:

"While Bentley's motto is 'Be Extraordinary', at Bentley Mulliner we look to take it one step further, 'Beyond Extraordinary'. With the new Bacalar we have been able to do exactly that, providing a select number of customers with the opportunity to express their personal taste in a truly remarkable Grand Tourer. Meanwhile, Bentley Mulliner Classic will breathe new life into the most iconic cars from our past, while our Collections team continue their work to offer a bespoke service to each and every Bentley customer."

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### **Bacalar – A Dynamically-Sculpted Design For The Future**

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The new Bentley Mulliner Bacalar is a genuine ‘roofless’ Barchetta – a luxury, two-seat, open-air performance car, the likes of which has never been seen before. Handcrafted to the individual customer’s personal tastes, Bacalar is the ultimate expression of an open-top Grand Tourer: a spirited GT combining traditional handcrafted techniques with the latest cutting-edge technology.

The Bacalar shares no body panel with any other car in the Bentley model lineup and derives inspiration from the dramatic EXP 100 GT concept car conceived to mark the company’s centenary last year. Indeed, it only shares one exterior component with a Continental GT – the door handle, simply because it contains the keyless entry system.

Stefan Sielaff, Bentley’s Director of Design, comments:

“You can clearly see echoes of the EXP 100 GT in the Bacalar, as well as the influence of the past. Bentley has a rich history of open-cockpit cars – the design of the Birkin Blower Bentley of the late 1920s was also an inspiration. We needed to push the boundaries as far as possible – customers were asking what Bentley’s take on a more expressive-looking car at this price point would look like. We were also tasked with starting to deliver on Bentley’s promise to use sustainable materials. Within less than a year of revealing our future-focused concept, we have already delivered on this promise.”

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The rear clamshell and top deck of the Bacalar are crafted from lightweight aluminum, while the doors and wings are carbon fiber. Combined with the use of three-dimensional printing, it allowed designers to create an even more distinctive car.



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The Bacalar sits on extended haunches, with the rear track 0.78 in (20 mm) wider than a Continental GT, to provide a more muscular, sporting stance. They house bespoke, 22-inch tri-finish wheels with dramatic depth and contour on the road. The unique front and rear horizontal lights add the distinctive, dynamic character that was first seen on the EXP 100 GT.

Instead of a traditional badge, Bentley designers went the extra mile to find a special way to identify the car. Uniquely, the Bacalar name appears on the rear panel, 'hidden' behind the lacquer of sustainable rice husk paint, with the capital 'A's influencing the contours of the lower bumper area.

The exterior look of each model will be completed in collaboration with individual customers, who are able to further personalize their car, choosing from rare paint options, exterior treatments and design themes. The Bacalar represents a return to the exciting early years of Bentley, allowing owners to help shape the car of their dreams.

### **A Unique Wraparound Cockpit**

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Inside the luxurious cabin, Bentley craftspeople created a cockpit like no other. The architecture of the Bacalar allowed Bentley Mulliner designers to seize the opportunity to create a theme that not only blends the interior and exterior together but also emphasizes the two-seater character with a 'wraparound' cockpit design.

Pure in line and surface execution, the wraparound design flows from a steeply angled center console into the dashboard, before sweeping into the door panels. These then wrap towards a uniquely styled, semi-enclosed luggage compartment behind the seats.

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This ingenious space is purposely designed for bespoke Schedoni fitted luggage, the Italian company that has designed luxury luggage for the automotive industry for almost 140 years. Created exclusively for the Bacalar, the optional luggage perfectly matches the trim and materials of the cabin. These two luggage 'pods' flow from the interior into the exterior, enveloping the seats and creating a true two-seater cabin.

Uniquely designed details and features in the cabin emphasize the coachbuilt character of the car, with an almost infinite number of ways for customers to express their personal taste and commission a unique interior.

Every detail was uniquely designed. A new, knurled pattern was created for the iconic 'bulls-eye' vents – a pattern that was repeated around the interior on areas like the steering wheel controls, media and climate controls and even the intricate speaker frets. Each element has a fine, Dark Bronze detail to further enhance the finish, with Midnight Black Titanium detailing.

The dark, anodized titanium finish on the main controls and a metallic dark bronze on the iconic bulls-eye air vents were used to highlight further details.

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The interior can be finished in any number of ways, with each car co-created and commissioned in conjunction with the Bentley Mulliner team. Every car will be individually specified and finished using any of the many Bentley colors and materials available.

The finest Beluga leather is carefully sewn together with Bentley's heritage semi-gloss leather and natural wool to create a dark 'tone-on-tone' character. For the first demonstration car, the use of Bentley Mulliner's Khamun accent



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leather highlights the wraparound cabin theme and matches the new and unique Yellow Flame exterior paintwork perfectly.

Every element that falls to hand was specifically designed for the Bacalar. A new D-shaped steering wheel features Alcantara inserts, with a contrast accent top marker. The gear shifter is also finished in Alcantara with Dark Bronze detailing. Unique leather strap door and seat releases, unique digital instrumentation and a unique key design enhance the luxurious cabin still further.

At the heart of the center console is the now famous Bentley Rotating Display. This digital MMI display was elegantly designed by Bentley with a customer-configurable home screen. The system involves 40 moving parts and revolves the Riverwood veneer when the engine is started to reveal the high-resolution touchscreen.

Three configurable windows are able to display the driver's preferred functions, such as telephone, media and navigation. The interface is designed to operate like a modern smartphone, with menus that are structured and simple to follow. The third side of the Bentley Rotating Display presents three, elegant analog dials that display outside temperature, a compass and chronometer – providing an alternative to the touchscreen when the driver wants to digitally detox.

Each car also features a unique clock face with individual one-of-12 badging.

Owning a Bacalar is the start of a journey of discovery for the owner. Every element was carefully and meticulously designed with a depth so great that

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over the course of time, each customer will discover new and interesting details.

From the use of precious inlays and unique finishes to the driver controls, to the 148,199 individual stitches needed to embroider the unique Bacalar quilt on each seat, owners will find details and parts not seen before on a Bentley.

### **Sustainable Craftsmanship And Ethically-Sourced Materials**

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Bentley entered into collaborative relationships with carefully selected industry experts to create the new Bacalar. Each one uses sustainable and innovative techniques that exemplify the best craftsmanship that the world has to offer, in many cases fine-tuned over centuries, and using ethically-sourced materials.

A focal point of the cabin is the wraparound dashboard cut from rare Riverwood, a sustainable wood from naturally fallen trees that was preserved for 5,000 years in peat bogs, lakes and rivers found in the Fenlands of East Anglia, England.

This exquisite wood was chosen for its striking black aesthetic, the result of lying untouched in wet earth for thousands of years. The wood was air-dried in a controlled environment over a long period of time to prevent damage and conserve its unique, natural characteristics. The straight grain enhances the Bacalar's sweeping interior contours, giving it genuine soul and drama.

Once veneered, the dashboard is literally sliced in two, creating an upper and lower element divided by a 0.11 in (3 mm) chrome strip. The upper Riverwood is finished as open pore – a semi-matte finish that shows off the veneer's grain and color.

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The lower panels are a high gloss finish but with a modern twist to the traditional process. The Bacalar's lower dashboard blends seamlessly from veneer into a high gloss Piano Black, further underlining the unique and bespoke finishes that are available. Because the Bacalar has no roof, this stunning marquetry is clearly visible from outside the car.

Bentley Mulliner also collaborated with a traditional British textile mill to produce bespoke natural wool cloth akin to a fine tailor's suit. Bentley Mulliner embraced the expertise and knowledge of these centuries-old methods to create an exclusive and unique woven cloth especially for the Bacalar, and customers will have the option to co-create their own bespoke fabric blend.

This traditionally-produced textile is used in the seat inserts, seat backs and the side of the head restraints. Following the interior styling lines, it also flows from the side of the center console and lower instrument panel into the doors.

Further promoting sustainable craftsmanship and supporting a unique industry, the luxury overmats are precision woven on traditional Wilton looms in England using the finest natural yarns. These Wilton-woven pure-wool deep-pile carpets are hand-carved for the footwell and rear luggage compartment, following the embroidered pattern found on the seats.

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Thanks to a partnership with another local supplier, based in the nearby Peak District, the Bacalar also offers customers the rare opportunity to create individual artisan piping, chosen to enhance the dynamic styling lines of the seat architecture. This piping can be designed and customized to feature unique patterns, color combinations and personal embossed effects, such as a customer's signature or special, individual customer motifs.



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Even the paintwork on the Bacalar was specially chosen for its sustainable characteristics. The pigment reflects an eye-catching transition of color that intensifies the drama, form and contours of the sculpted exterior in different lights.

The pigment is based on synthetically manufactured silicon dioxide platelets coated with iron oxide. This synthetic process uses rice husk ash – a by-product from the rice industry – to create 90 percent pure silicon dioxide, thereby reducing rice husk landfill waste.

Each Bacalar will be handcrafted in Mulliner's dedicated workshop at the Bentley factory in Crewe – the world's first certified carbon neutral factory for luxury car production.

### **A Unique Driving Experience**

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The Bentley Bacalar combines bespoke, handcrafted luxury with state-of-the-art technology to guarantee an extraordinary driving experience.

With all-new coachwork brought to life by Bentley Mulliner, at the heart of the Bacalar is Bentley's renowned 6.0-liter, twin-turbocharged W12 TSI engine mated to a technically-advanced drivetrain.

The Bacalar's dual-clutch, eight-speed transmission offers faster, more efficient gear changes. An adaptive chassis uses Bentley's intelligent, 48-volt Dynamic Ride System to ensure a responsive ride and exceptional handling and refinement in all conditions.

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The air suspension system controls ride comfort and lateral roll, cushioning passengers from excessive movement, as well as making the Bacalar feel effortlessly precise.

### **The Legend Of Mulliner**

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The legend of Mulliner is woven into the very fabric of Bentley. The tradition of bespoke craftsmanship has been passed down from generation to generation since the 1500s, when Mulliner was founded as a saddler.

In the 1760s, the Mulliner family business refocused on coachbuilding and rose to prominence when it was commissioned to build and maintain carriages for the Royal Mail postal service. With the arrival of the motor car, the company stepped away from horse-drawn carriages and focused on coachbuilding for mechanical propulsion.

The then independent Mulliner crafted a bespoke, 3-liter, two-seater Bentley for the 1923 Olympia Show in London, creating a bond between the two companies that would last for decades. Mulliner bodied over 240 Bentley chassis in the 1920s alone and became renowned as the very best of the new coachbuilding firms.

Perhaps the most famous was Mulliner's design for the 1952 R-Type Continental, still considered one of the most beautiful cars of all time. The fastest, four-seat sports car of the era, the R-Type's iconic beauty continues to influence design today through the Bentley Continental GT.

Mulliner cemented its partnership with Bentley in 1959 by becoming part of the business. It later moved into the old engineering experimental department at Bentley headquarters in Crewe and has remained there ever since.

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Today, around 40 employees, ranging from specialists with over 40 years of Mulliner experience to apprentices learning the skills that have been honed over decades of manufacturing, work for the company.

– ENDS –

### **Notes to editors**

Model is in a pre-production state.

Bentley Motors is the most sought-after luxury car brand in the world. The company's headquarters in Crewe is home to all of its operations including design, R&D, engineering and production of the company's four model lines – Continental, Flying Spur, Bentayga and Mulsanne. The combination of fine craftsmanship, using skills that have been handed down through generations, alongside engineering expertise and cutting-edge technology is unique to UK luxury car brands such as Bentley. It is also an example of high-value British manufacturing at its best. Bentley employs around 4,000 people at Crewe.

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