

SUMMER | 2018

# long island LIVING



THE IMMORTAL

## *IDINA* menzel

### **FORE!**

*THE U.S. OPEN RETURN  
TO LONG ISLAND*

### **GOLFCATION**

*AT CASA DE CAMPO*

### **LOBSTER ANYONE?**

*SOME OF LONG ISLAND'S  
BEST LOBSTER ROLLS*

### **DROP AN ANCHOR**

*AT THE KNICKERBOCKER  
YACHT HOTEL*

Wedding Bells: Little touches for your big day



# station WAGONS *are cool again*

By David Fluhrer

**For much of the 20th century,** they took privileged passengers from rail depots to North Shore estates. They carried Long Island families on grand summer road trips or weekend grocery runs.»

And now, station wagons are cool again.

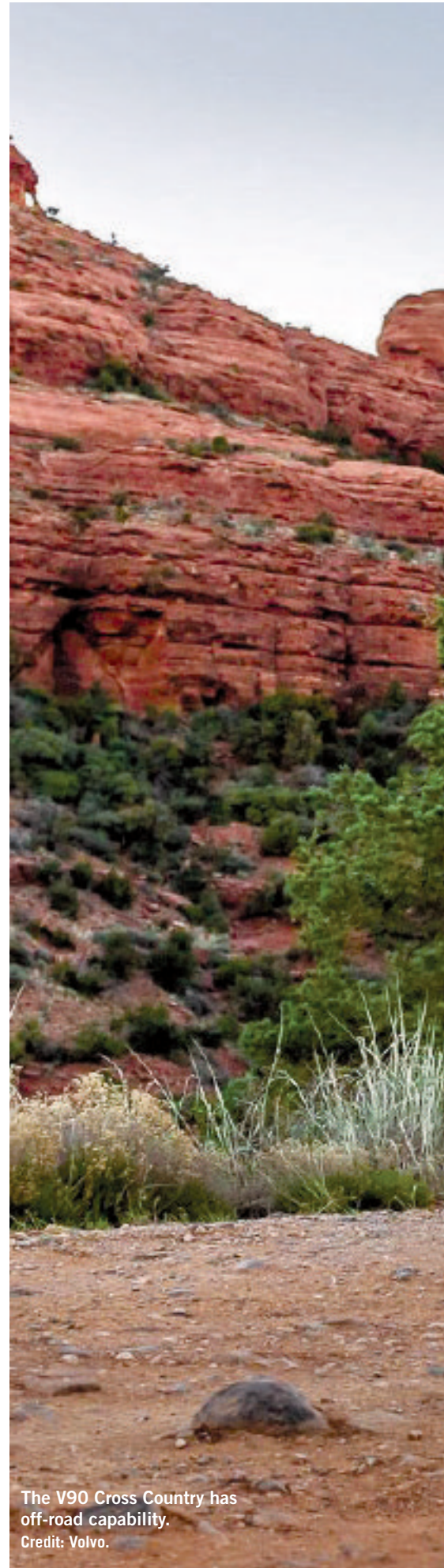
But today's luxury haulers hardly resemble grandpa's Country Squire, with its fake wood siding and deathtrap third-row seats. Instead, think low, sleek and powerful—a Euro-style sedan with a ritzier nameplate: Cross Country, Sportbrake, Sport Turismo.

While current choices are limited, quality and performance are exceptional. Buick's Regal TourX is a \$40,000 German-built beauty whose extended cargo bay will fit scads of designer luggage. "A TourX is likely to be the only vehicle in the garage for younger, single drivers or single-vehicle homes that need one car that does it all," says Buick spokesman Stuart Fowle. BMW's 3 Series Sports Wagon, Mercedes-Benz's E400 4MATIC or Volvo's V60 and V90 exude similar style and versatility.

You'll kick things up a notch—literally—with Audi's A4 allroad and Volvo's V90 Cross Country (with a new V60 version coming soon) offering a driving position somewhere between sedan and SUV. "The elevated wagon says you can do some of the off-road stuff of an SUV," says Audi product manager Anthony Garbis. Adds V90 product manager Anders Robertson, "Many customers that have been in SUVs for maybe their second, third, fourth or fifth time may now be ready to do something else, to get into the driving dynamics that you can get with a wagon."

Go lower and hotter with Jaguar's 380-horsepower XF Sportbrake or Mercedes' sizzling AMG E63 S, where twin turbo power hits 603. "When you're cornering at a higher speed, there's a whole lot less body roll in the Sportbrake than there would be in any SUV," says Tony Anton, general manager for Jaguar Great Neck and Jaguar Freeport.

A winning lottery ticket could take you to the stratosphere in price and potency with Ferrari's \$300,000-plus GTC4Lusso and its 680-horsepower V12. Porsche plays with five variants of its Panamera Sport Turismo, including two hybrids and power reaching 550. "Panamera customers want something that drives like a pure sports car, but that can easily carry friends and cargo for a weekend away or an extended outing," says spokesman Luke Vandezande.



The V90 Cross Country has off-road capability.  
Credit: Volvo.



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THEY CARRIED LONG ISLAND FAMILIES  
ON GRAND SUMMER ROAD TRIPS. . .”







TourX is Buick's new wagon offering.  
Credit: Buick.



Audi A4 allroad gives added ride height.  
Credit: Audi.

Pick any model and get full-boat amenities, from soft leather to panoramic moonroofs to cutting-edge safety gear. There's also exclusivity. Unlike Europe, American wagon sales remain low thanks to our overwhelming lust for SUVs and crossovers. "Last year, they made up .8 percent of the retail sales market in the United States and that's been fairly steady for the past three years," says Jessica Caldwell, executive director of industry analysis at Edmunds, the car shopping and information platform.

But experts see wagon owners as a breed apart. They like cars, driving, outdoor sports and European inspirations. They want elegance, performance, utility, and not something found in their neighbors' driveways. They associate SUVs with vertiginous driving positions, bitter-cold nor'easters and cumbersome handling. Or they may even want to graduate from a minivan. "This is a good transition vehicle for a customer like that because it's a



cool-looking car, it's got a lot of technology and it does everything and more that a minivan would do," says Huntington Volvo general manager Steve Rentz.

"The client who decides to go with the wagon body style...would certainly be someone who likes a unique design and doesn't mind standing apart from the crowd," adds Tommy Coppola, general manager for Atlantic Audi West Islip. Volvo V60 product manager Alex Tripi speculates they are "maybe a bit more educated, a bit more willing to make a different decision than the expected SUV purchase or the mainstream sedan purchase. I think wagons are perceived as kind of delivering more of that emotional, driver-focused experience." *LIL*

*David Fluhrer writes Newsday's weekly classic car column and publishes inthedriveway.com, an automotive website.*



The Jaguar XF Sportbrake offers a lower profile.  
Credit: Jaguar.



The Ferrari GTC4Lusso crosses the \$300K mark.  
Credit: Ferrari.

“  
EXPERTS SEE  
WAGON OWNERS  
AS A BREED APART.”



Porsche's Sport Turismo comes in five varieties, including hybrids.  
Credit: Porsche.



Mercedes AMG E63 S hits 603 horsepower.  
Credit: Mercedes-Benz.