

1 9 8 1  C O R V E T T E



Rob Elise

AMERICA'S ONLY TRUE PRODUCTION SPORTS CAR

No other American car looks like or stirs the spirit like Corvette.

This is what a sports car was meant to be. Lean. Responsive and roadable. Distinctive. It's been that way since 1953. With aerodynamics and engineering to meet the demands of the sophisticated sports car enthusiast. With a tradition of evolutionary refinement. And with all the style that makes Corvette instantly recognizable anywhere.

For 1981, these traditions continue. Refinements include a fiberglass-reinforced Monoleaf rear spring that reduces weight and eliminates interleaf friction. (Standard with automatic transmission only.) New stainless-steel, free-flow, smooth-bore exhaust manifolds. And a new auxiliary electric fan cuts in quietly and automatically when added engine cooling is needed.

Read on. There's much more to the 1981 Corvette. If you own only one sports car in your life, this should be it.



STANDARD EQUIPMENT NEW FOR 1981



Fiberglass-reinforced Monoleaf rear spring • 350 V8 now standard in all states including California • Advanced Computer Command Control emission system now standard • Improved Delco Freedom II maintenance-free battery • Lightweight magnesium valve rocker covers in black with bright ribbed surface • Chrome-plated air cleaner cover • Stainless-steel, free-flow exhaust manifolds weigh less, reduce back pressure • Auxiliary electric fan cuts in only when supplemental engine cooling is needed. This allows use of a smaller engine-driven fan with fewer, lower pitched blades for reduced fan drag and quieter operation • Improved anti-theft alarm system with starter-interrupt feature to disable starting circuit if forced entry is made, even if ignition switch is bypassed. System is armed by using manual or power door lock control on driver's door while door is open; door key locks disarm system (key is not required for arming) • Quartz-crystal-movement clock.

MORE STANDARD EQUIPMENT

5.7 Liter (350 Cu. In.) 4-Bbl. V8 engine • Four-speed fully synchronized manual transmission or automatic transmission with converter clutch feature in both intermediate and drive ranges • 24-gallon fuel tank • Air conditioning • Power windows • Dual remote sport mirrors • Tilt-Telescopic steering wheel • Convenience Group with time-delay dome and courtesy lights, headlight warning buzzer, underhood light, low fuel warning light, color-keyed floor mats, intermittent windshield wipers and lighted right-hand visor vanity mirror • AM/FM radio with dual front speakers • Body-color front bumper cover with integral air dam • Cornering lights • Functional black-accented front fender louvers • Body-color rear bumper cover with integral spoiler • Removable roof panels • Telescoping left-hand sunshade for shielding from side glare • Large rear storage compartment with concealment shade • Inside hood release • High Energy Ignition system • P225/70R-15 steel-belted radial ply blackwall tires • Wide 15- by 8-inch Rally wheels • Power disc brakes at all four wheels • Limited slip rear axle • Fully independent four-wheel suspension system • Power steering • Exhaust valve rotators • Delco-tron generator with built-in solid-state regulator • Hydraulic valve lifters • Front stabilizer bar • Tinted glass in all windows • Frame structure with corrosion-resistant coating • Hide-A-Way windshield wipers with integral washers in wiper arms • Power-operated retractable headlamps with halogen hi-beam inner units • Corrosion-resistant steel-reinforced fiberglass body with partial steel underbody • Acoustical insulation package • Day/night inside rearview mirror



• Special sport-styled 3-spoke steering wheel with leather rim cover • Aircraft-style center console • Bucket seats with folding seat backs and inertia seat back locks • Electronic tachometer (7000 rpm) • Voltmeter, oil pressure, fuel and temperature gauges • Separate trip odometer • Console-mounted parking brake control • Cut-pile carpeting • Cigar lighter and ashtray • Color-keyed seat and shoulder belts • Roof courtesy light with automatic door switches.

"NO EXTRA CHARGE" CHOICES

Automatic transmission or four-speed manual (automatic transmission required with optional trailering package) • Cloth bucket seats or leather bucket seating surfaces.

COLOR AND TRIM SELECTIONS

Exterior colors: White, Silver, Black, Dark Blue Metallic*, Yellow, Beige, Red*, Maroon Metallic*, Mahogany Metallic* and Charcoal Metallic*.

*New colors for 1981.

Interior choices: Cloth bucket seats* are available in Black, Camel, Rust and Dark Blue. Leather bucket seats** are available in Silver, Black, Camel, Red, Rust and Dark Blue.

*Cloth seat cushions and bolsters.
**Leather-faced bucket seats.

DIMENSIONS

EXTERIOR		Inches
Wheelbase		98.0
Length (overall)		185.3
Width (overall)		69.0
Height (loaded)		48.0
Tread—Front		58.7
Tread—Rear		59.5
INTERIOR		
Head Room		36.2
Leg Room		42.1
Hip Room		49.9
Shoulder Room		47.5
Usable Luggage Capacity (cu. ft.)		8.4
Curb weight, lbs. (manual transmission)		3,308
(auto. transmission)		3,345

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

New electric twin remote control sport mirrors • Electric rear window defogger • Aluminum wheels • Tires: P225/70R-15 or P255/60R-15 steel-belted radial ply white-lettered • Automatic speed control with "resume speed" feature (requires automatic transmission) • Power door lock system • New extended range rear speakers are now included with all optional stereo radios • Delco AM/FM stereo or electronically tuned (ETR) AM/FM stereo radios with seek and scan and either 8-track or cassette stereo tape players. Power antenna optional. ETRs are also available with integral Citizens Band and either 8-track or cassette players. All Citizens Band radios include power tri-band antenna. All ETR radios include a digital clock which replaces the standard clock, and an oil temperature gage. • Removable glass roof panels with solar screening • Roof panel carrier • New six-way power driver's seat • Gymkhana suspension includes rear stabilizer and bushings, higher rate springs and special shock absorbers (included with trailering equipment package). Trailering package includes increased cooling and Gymkhana suspension (requires automatic transmission).



THE GM CONTINUOUS PROTECTION PLAN



It offers service protection in addition to that provided by GM's new vehicle limited warranty. Ask your dealer about it. Coverage is limited to U.S.A. and Canada for 1981 model year.

CORVETTE POWER TEAMS

ENGINE (Standard all states)	TRANSMISSIONS	
	Ordering Code	4-Spd. Manual Automatic
5.7 Liter 4-Bbl. V8 ⁽¹⁾ (350-cu.-in. displacement)	L81	Std. (†)

⁽¹⁾Available in place of standard/four-speed manual transmission at no extra cost.

⁽²⁾PRODUCED BY GM: CHEVROLET MOTOR DIVISION

ENGINE PERFORMANCE

New stainless-steel exhaust manifolds do their part for performance by helping reduce back pressure. All this designed into a proven small-block, large-bore 5.7 Liter V8 with short-stroke design, rugged cast-iron heads and cylinder block. A real lightweight, heavy-duty performer.

LONG RECOMMENDED SERVICE INTERVALS*

Engine Oil	12 months or 7,500 miles
Oil Filter	12 months or 7,500 miles; every 15,000 miles thereafter
Spark Plugs	30,000 miles
Chassis Lubrication	12 months or 7,500 miles
Automatic Transmission Fluid Change	Every 100,000 miles

*See Owner's Manual for conditions requiring more frequent intervals.

SAFETY FEATURES

OCCUPANT PROTECTION Manual lap/shoulder belts for driver (with reminder light and buzzer) and front passenger • Energy-absorbing steering column • Passenger guard door locks • Safety door latches and stamped steel hinges • Folding seat back latches • Energy-absorbing padded instrument panel • Laminated windshield/tempered side and rear glass • Safety armrests • Identification symbols for controls and displays. **ACCIDENT PREVENTION** Side marker lights and reflectors • Parking lamps that illuminate with headlamps • Four-way hazard warning flasher • Backup lights • Lane change feature in direction signal control • Windshield defrosters, washer and dual-speed wipers • Vinyl-edged inside mirror • Dual outside rearview mirrors • Dual master cylinder brake system with warning light • Starter safety switch. **ANTI-THEFT** Anti-theft ignition key reminder buzzer • Anti-theft steering column lock • Built-in anti-theft audio alarm system with starter-interrupt feature.

A WORD ABOUT ENGINES

Corvettes are equipped with a GM-built engine produced by Chevrolet Motor Division. Please refer to power team information on this page, or see your dealer for details.

A WORD ABOUT ASSEMBLY, COMPONENTS AND OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT IN THESE CORVETTES

The Corvettes described in this catalog are assembled at facilities of General Motors Corporation operated by General Motors Assembly Division. These vehicles incorporate thousands of different components produced by various divisions of General Motors and by various suppliers to General Motors. From time to time during the manufacturing process, it may be necessary, in order to meet public demand for particular vehicles or equipment, or to meet federally mandated emissions, safety and fuel economy requirements, or for other reasons, to produce Chevrolet products with different components or differently sourced components than initially scheduled. All such components have been approved for use in Chevrolet products and will provide the quality performance associated with the Chevrolet name.

With respect to extra cost optional equipment, make certain you specify the type of equipment you desire on your vehicle when ordering it from your dealer. Some options may be unavailable when your car is built. Your dealer receives advice regarding current availability of options. You may ask the dealer for this information. GM also requests the dealer to advise you if an option you ordered is unavailable. We suggest that you verify that your car includes the optional equipment you ordered or if there are changes, that they are acceptable to you.



A WORD ABOUT THIS CATALOG. We have tried to make this catalog as comprehensive and factual as possible and we hope you find it helpful. However, since the time of printing, some of the information you will find here may have been updated. Also, some of the equipment shown or described throughout this catalog is optional at extra cost. Your dealer has details and, before ordering, you should ask him to bring you up to date. The right is reserved to make changes at any time, without notice, in prices, colors, materials, equipment, specifications and models. Check with your Chevrolet dealer for complete information.