The car feels seriously unstable at speed in constant-radius corners; it needs sorting. The Mastretta has the makings of a nice sports car that's at the right price, but there's probably a year's work needed to sort out all of its deficiencies. How well it does it will very much define the car's future sales potential



The Mastretta is the first car fully designed and built in Mexico. The car we're driving today is very much a pre-production prototype; it's powered by a Volkswagen TFSI engine, whereas the production cars will have a turbocharged Ford Duratech motor with around 238bhp. The whole car is targeted to weigh 900kg, which puts it right on a par with the Elise. Lifestyle Cars, which is the European importer, pitches the car in a gap between the Exige and Noble.

The Mastretta is an interesting looking car, very straightedged and compact. The overall shape of the car is perhaps derivative



but quite appealing in person, with better-than-expected fit and finish for a small-volume prototype, though the interior still needs some mod est refining (even for an elemental track day car). The aluminum semi-monocoque construction features a carbon fiber belly pan and a steel subframe, and suspension is via double wishbones front and rear. Thanks to Mexico's low labor costs, the folks at Mastretta (a company that cut its teeth building kit cars and commercial buses) are optimistic that they can sell the 2,050-pound MT for just \$50,000-\$60,000 for European audiences, with the goal of eventually bringing the car north to the States. More serious is the rear suspension.





Little is known about Mastretta, but the company was represented in style here at the 2012 Los Angeles Auto Show. The MXT made a grand appearance as the only supercar to come from Mexico. According to its website, Mastretta Cars is a division of Tecnoidea SAPI de CV, a design and engineering consulting firm based in Mexico City. Tecnoidea helps businesses create products from the initial concept all the way to development. According to Tecnoidea, it "drew upon all areas of its business to develop the MXT.



2012 Mastretta MXT - First Look

Mastretta is expected to produce 200 cars per year.



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pinion.

• The Mastretta MXT is powered by a turbocharged 2.0-liter Duratec inline-4 that produces 250 bhp at 5200 rpm and 250 lb.-ft. of torque that peaks at 3950. It comes mated to a MTX-75 5-speed manual gearbox. The car weighs only 2050 lb., thanks to the use of aluminum in the chassis and carbon fiber in the body. The suspension consists of upper and lower Aarms front and rear, while the steering via rack-and-