

BMW Motorrad presents the “BMW Motorrad Vision K18” at the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este.

A vision in the spirit of acceleration.



Munich/Cernobbio, 20 May 2026. BMW Motorrad presents the Vision K18, a vision bike that offers a confident outlook on a new expression of performance, luxury and dynamism. The Vision bike will be unveiled to the public for the first time in the exclusive setting of the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este on Lake Como.

Conceived as a one-off vision bike, the BMW Motorrad Vision K18 stands for uncompromising passion, confident long-distance performance and outstanding visual presence. Long-distance travel is reimagined as a sensual experience: emotion is central, performance is the key – and is staged with all the senses. The Vision K18 embodies BMW Motorrad's ambition to combine technical excellence with emotional appeal, making performance not only measurable but also visibly tangible. At the same time, it positions the inline six cylinder as part of BMW DNA and sends a clear signal of pioneering spirit: greater radicality and sharper character down to the finest detail – as inspiration for future series-production solutions.

At the heart of the concept is a traditional 1,800 cm³ inline six-cylinder engine which, as both a design and technical centerpiece, shapes the entire appearance – and at the same time was the starting point for the vision. As an iconic BMW power unit that has stood for authority, smooth running and character for decades, it provided the impetus to rethink the vehicle from the ground up and to celebrate the drivetrain as a visible feature: technology is deliberately revealed, proportions subordinate themselves to the engine, and performance becomes directly tangible as a piece of engineering. The strikingly elongated silhouette

follows this logic, and its flyline takes cues from high-speed aircraft such as the Concorde – for an appearance that conveys dynamism even at a standstill.

BMW Motorrad's current six-cylinder models are positioned in the touring segment – built for confidence and comfort on long journeys. Accordingly, the design follows a sculptural, elongated formal language inspired by long-haul aviation: expansive base bodies – as seen on iconic high-speed aircraft – form a clear, calm foundation from which technically necessary components deliberately “break out” in contrast. Large body surfaces meet complex, openly displayed technology with graphically precise cut-outs and openings. Distinct inline-six references reinforce this principle: six intakes, six tailpipes and six LED headlights cite the exceptional engine architecture in a visual way. Hand-formed body parts as well as a hydraulically lowerable suspension underscore the exclusive, visionary character.

The aspiration for quality and emotion results from the interplay of craftsmanship and high-tech: parts of the aluminum bodywork are painstakingly formed by hand (“planished”), including a seamless side panel more than two meters long that appears as if cast from a single piece. Contrasting materials such as aluminum and forged carbon, along with special surfaces and processes – for example, structures created by flame spraying – set deliberate accents; the resulting bright, metallic look is intended as a reminiscence of classic Formula 1 exhaust headers. Visible technical highlights such as the striking intake, the hydraulically lowerable suspension and an actively cooled headlight make the engineering character of the vision immediately tangible. For the team, one of the key challenges was the precise coordination between highly complex technical components and elements crafted with masterful workmanship.

A central element of the BMW Motorrad Vision K18 is the visual guiding idea “The Heat of Speed”. A deliberately employed heat-haze effect makes the power of the inline six-cylinder visible and translates performance into an emotionally tangible image. The chosen stage is intentionally a runway setting, reflecting both the aviation inspiration as well as the theme of confident high speed and long-distance capability.

With the Vision K18, BMW Motorrad delivers a powerful emotional statement. It is an expression of attitude, design expertise and a passion for extraordinary engine concepts – Full Force Forward. This guiding motif translates forward momentum into proportion and line: a downward overall gesture like an aircraft taking off, an arrow shaped silhouette, and a presence reminiscent of a sprinter in the starting blocks. Radically executed proportions make the ambition visible in every detail: swapping the positions of the airbox and the tank enables a maximally flat rear line. In contrast, there is a very wide tail section that, framed in carbon, accommodates six tailpipes. The front also reflects power with its staged intake – air is routed through six tubes to the central air filter.

Markus Flasch, CEO BMW Motorrad: “With the BMW Motorrad Vision K18, we show how we interpret performance, luxury and emotion in a new, very confident way. For us, the inline six-cylinder is far more than an engine – it is a statement. The Vision K18 translates this power into a sculptural form that makes dynamism and speed tangible even at a standstill. This bike stands for our passion to redefine the boundaries of design and performance repeatedly.”

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