

SUVs



Becker/STRUT
Escalade

These sport utility vehicles make sure you get to wherever you're going not only in style, but in productive, and even eco-conscious, comfort.

By Jeremy Lissek

Have you ever been traveling in your chauffeured Mercedes S-Class, smoking your freshly imported Cohiba Esplendidos, and sipping a glass of Château d'Yquem when you thought to yourself, "Although this is nice, I think I'd prefer a slightly more spacious method of transportation that features reclining leather seating, a mobile office, and wonderful ambient lighting"? Or maybe you're the spirulina-infused wheatgrass protein shake kind of person who wants to downsize your personal carbon footprint. No matter which way you lean, the following SUVs, which are more like rolling Gulfstreams, are next level, on every level.

Becker Automotive Design, known globally for their unique custom limousine and coach conversion vehicles, has partnered with custom automotive designer STRUT to create a special edition Cadillac Escalade ESV for Becker's exclusive global clientele (they've produced specialty vehicles for heads of state, royalty, celebrities, prominent families, business leaders, and high-end properties in more than 15 countries). It redefines business-luxury executive transport.

The new Becker/STRUT Cadillac Escalade ESV combines an unmatched blend of privacy and European interior craftsmanship with cutting-edge mobile office

capabilities. The floor-to-ceiling custom-leather interior is designed for comfort, convenience, and ergonomic utility. The reclining seats, which are modeled after private aircraft, have electronically controlled leg rests and offer increased headroom. Or, in other words, this beautiful beast is completely devoid of the typical Vegas limo disco nightmare treatment.

Integrated into the vehicle is an impressive iPod-ready A/V system featuring satellite HDTV, DVD, and digital surround sound. It yields picture and sound quality rivaling that of any high-end home audio or theater system. Becker has chosen only the finest high-end components from Alpine, JL Audio, LG, Dynaudio, and other manufacturers, all controlled by a custom Crestron touchscreen that utilizes proprietary Becker Automotive Design software.

While the Becker/STRUT Escalade ESV offers luxurious accoutrements, it's as ready for work as it is for play, with a sophisticated onboard computer system, broadband Internet connection, wireless keyboard, and full printer/scanner functions. The large LCD monitor allows rear-seated passengers to check email, surf the web, or crunch some spreadsheet numbers whether they're on the highway or stuck in traffic. And whenever the ignition key is

engaged or removed, this superb mobile office automatically smart boots up or gently shuts itself down.

The exterior of the Escalade ESV features a custom-crafted and meticulously tooled jewelry collection from STRUT featuring a woven, diamond-mesh front grille with matching side vents, all created from the finest stainless steel, highly polished for style and all weather conditions durability. Each piece in the collection bears the distinctive STRUT shield, announcing to all that this vehicle stands apart from the crowd. Completing the Becker/STRUT Escalade ESV signature collection is a set of Icon Wheels, also by STRUT.

Each vehicle contains specific design input from the commissioning customer, and pricing for the converted 'Slade starts at about \$125,000. It can range up to \$225,000 for the top-of-the-line package.

