

THE NEXT

Spied on a test track in Britain, this secret Lotus prototype sports car is believed to be the third-generation version of the current Elise, which we may see in late 2006 or 2007. The current second-gen Elise has been making such a splash here and everywhere else in the world, that Lotus has already begun building a prototype of its successor. The Elise Series 3 should fully comply with U.S. federal crash standards. It will probably continue with the current 1.8-liter inline-4, but power may be upped to 200 bhp to offset any weight gain. Should be a rocket, though, with performance that'll be on a par with the current Elise.