

Multi-Level Passenger Cars Debut on NJ TRANSIT

NEWARK — NJ TRANSIT's first multilevel train debuted Monday on the Northeast Corridor, culminating four years of planning and design, including extensive input from customers, to offer riders a new level of comfort and convenience.

Following a ribbon-cutting, Transportation Commissioner Kris Kolluri, state and local officials, guests and commuters boarded the new multilevel train for an inaugural trip from Trenton Station to New York. The train, representing Northeast Corridor Train 3844, departed Trenton at noon and made all local stops en route.

The fleet of 234 multilevel rail cars will enable NJ TRANSIT to meet and anticipate ridership demand on its busiest rail lines, while providing an improved level of comfort for customers.

"The input we received from our customers and our employees early in the design phase is evident in the attention to detail incorporated in the cars, including two-by-two seating, additional legroom, improved lighting and updated restroom amenities," said NJ TRANSIT Executive Director George Warrington. "These cars enable us to add capacity while providing customers with a comfortable ride."

By this spring, Bombardier Transportation is expected to deliver to NJ TRANSIT 18 additional multilevel cars for service. Beginning next fall, multilevel trains will begin operating on the Morris & Essex and North Jersey Coast lines. The manufacturer is expected to deliver all 234 cars by the end of 2008.

The multilevel cars offer 15 to 20 percent more seating capacity than the latest generation of single-level cars, enabling NJ TRANSIT to accommodate more customers using the existing infrastructure.

As the new cars are delivered and tested, the multilevel fleet will be used for additional service and to replace some single-level cars on NJ TRANSIT's busiest rail lines: the Northeast Corridor, North Jersey Coast Line and MidTOWN DIRECT service on the Morris & Essex and Montclair-Boonton lines.

The 234 multilevel car order consists of: 86 coach cars (with ADA restrooms) with 132 seats; 33 cab cars (with ADA restrooms) with 127 seats and 115 coach cars (without restrooms) with 142 seats.

Customers participated in the design of the new rail cars. A Customer Design Team, composed of 14 NJ TRANSIT commuters from across the system, worked with the manufacturer to provide feedback on interior design, onboard amenities, seat design, and color and fabric selection. Their participation included a September 2003 trip to a Montreal manufacturing plant for a firsthand inspection of a mock-up of the car.

More than any other feature, the cars' seats received considerable attention from the Customer Design Team, which recommended modifications to improve comfort and lumbar support. Their recommendation yielded more legroom without reducing capacity.

Designed for customers by customers who worked with engineers for the rail cars' manufacturer, the multilevel cars provide 25.27 inches of knee room, a full inch more than Comet V single-level cars, and 2.2 inches more seat width than Comet V seats.

The cars' interior design features large tinted windows, indirect ceiling lighting and blue tones to produce a restful and spacious passenger environment. Each car features an upper and lower seating level, as well as an open, intermediate "mezzanine" level at each end of the car—making the cars truly "multilevel." The mezzanine features plenty of space for customers who opt to stand, complete with padded leaning stations, as well as areas for wheelchairs, carts, strollers and luggage. Fully accessible restrooms are found in this area on more than half of the cars and feature refined finishes and a generous amount of space.

On the upper and lower levels, seats are arranged in a two-by-two configuration, meaning that every seat is either a "window" or an "aisle." This design ensures that all of the car's seats are usable. The two-by-two configuration also results in wider aisles that facilitate passenger boarding and alighting, while making it easier for customers and crewmembers to move about the train. Four doors on each side of the car will further expedite the boarding process.

Each car features high-tech automated public address systems and LED destination screens to keep customers informed. Emergency intercoms are available throughout the car including a call-for-assistance button in the restrooms and improved anti-skid flooring is featured in the vestibules and restrooms to prevent slips.

The 68-ton stainless steel cars, which fully conform to all federal safety standards, are capable of being used anywhere on the NJ TRANSIT system and were custom designed to match the profile of the 100-year-old Amtrak-owned Hudson River tunnels. The cars are able to serve both high-level and low-level platform stations.

As the multilevel fleet enters revenue service, NJ TRANSIT will reassign modern Comet IV and V equipment to replace many 34-year-old

Comet I-series cars, the oldest in the fleet. Currently, Comet I cars are used on the Main, Bergen County, Pascack Valley, Montclair-Boonton and Morristown lines.

Extensive training of engineers and maintenance personnel has been underway at NJ TRANSIT's Meadows Maintenance Complex since the spring, including classroom and hands-on training. Conductors, assistant conductors and ticket collectors have also received training, including familiarization with the multilevel cars' onboard safety and communication systems.

Every system and component of the new cars has been tested at the manufacturing plant, at the Transportation Technology Center test track in Pueblo, Colo. and on all electrified segments of the NJ TRANSIT rail system. The 68-ton stainless steel cars meet all federal safety standards.



TIS THE SEASON...Spencer Pascal of Westfield will appear in the New Jersey Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker* at the Papermill Playhouse.

Westfield Boy Cast in NJ Ballet's *Nutcracker*

WESTFIELD — Eleven-year-old Spencer Pascal has once again been cast in the New Jersey Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker*.

Spencer will perform as a soldier, as well as little boy in all 14 shows being held at the Papermill Playhouse in Millburn between December 22 and December 30. He was also invited to travel with the company as they performed eight shows in three cities across New Jersey.

Spencer is a fifth grade student of St. Michael's School in Cranford. He started his dance career at the age of two and a half under the guidance of Joanne Carey, owner of the Westfield School of Dance.

Two years ago, Spencer was accepted to study with NJ Ballet in Livingston, where he dances 12 hours a week. Here, he is trained by professional dancers. He spends his summers with the NJ Ballet dance intensive program, putting in 24

hours per week. Spencer's goal is to pursue a career in dance, with goals of Broadway, NY City Ballet and eventually teaching in his own studio specializing in children with learning differences.

Supported by family and educators, Spencer has become a role model for children with learning differences since he himself is severely dyslexic.

For ticket information, contact the box office at (973) 376-4343 or NJ Ballet at (973) 597-9600.

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SELECTIONS

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Antinori Solaia 2001
Masses of coffee and blackberry character in this youthful wine. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins, loads of fruit and excellent wood. Big and juicy, with a long, long finish. A fine wine. Needs time.
\$129.99

Sette Ponti Toscana Oreno 2003
Breathtaking. Dense and powerful, with grilled meat and currant aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, round, chewy; massive and exciting. More muscular than the 2001.
\$69.99

Robert Craig Mt. Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon 2003
How big this wine got, so juicy and ripe! It's almost over the top, with all that heady black currant, blueberry, Provencal herb and new oak flavor. With power like this, control is desperately needed. At its best in 2008.
\$59.99

Pine Ridge Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignon 2002
The '01 was a hard act to follow. If the '02 lacks a bit of the rich opulence of its predecessor, it may be a more ageable wine. The tannins are thick yet sweet, covering ripe black currant and oaky-mocha flavors that last through an impressively long finish. Drink this dry, balanced Cab now thru 2014.
\$59.99

93 WINE ENTHUSIAST POINTS

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92 WINE ADVOCATE POINTS

93 WINE SPECTATOR POINTS

VINTAGE RATING SCALE:

95-100	Classic
90-94	Outstanding
85-89	Very Good
80-84	Good
70-79	Average
60-69	Below Average

Antinori Péppoli 2003
Péppoli Chianti Classico DOCG is the archetypal modern Chianti Classico. It combines the complexity and structure of a well-aged riserva with the fruity fragrance of a young wine. Intense red fruit aromas with hints of vanilla. A well-balanced wine with good structure and nice length with fruity flavours.
Wine Enthusiast: 91 \$17.99

Pine Ridge Dijon Clones Chardonnay 2004
What's so interesting about this Chardonnay is the dryness and the earthy minerality. There are flavors of dried herbs and dried fruits, such as apricots, lemons and pink grapefruits. Usually these Dijon clones produce enormously fruity wines, but this fine wine has a sleek, high-acid Chablisian elegance.
Wine Enthusiast: 90 \$26.99

Marchesi di Barolo 2001
Aromas of dried meat and ripe fruit follow through to a full-bodied palate, with a peppery, light raisin flavor. Chewy yet ripe tannins. Goes on for a long time on the palate. Very well done for the vintage.
Wine Spectator: 91 \$34.99

Catena Malbec 2004
Great aromas of crushed blueberry and raspberry, with a juicy texture and well-integrated toast and mineral notes. Nice blast of pure fruit on the finish. Drink now thru 2009.
Wine Spectator: 90 \$13.99

Seghesio Cortina Zinfandel 2004
Blueberries, blackberries, and exotic, tropical fruit characteristics appear in this deep ruby-hued wine. Dramatic, with superb purity, black and blue fruits, impressive opulence, and good underlying acidity. Will drink well for 5-6 years.
Robert Parker: 92 \$26.99

Treana Red 2001
You can taste the richness here in the deeply satisfying dark stone fruit and earth complexities of plums, coffee, black cherries and spices. Very dry, full-bodied and balanced, with a firm spread of dusty tannins. Excellent now, and should develop additional complexities for several years.
Wine Enthusiast: 90 \$34.99

Sebastiani Sonoma County Merlot 2002
A great example of a coastal Merlot from a good vintage, lush and sweet in cherry, cassis and cocoa flavors, yet completely dry, and the tannins are rich and smooth. A complex velvety softness caresses the finish.
Wine Enthusiast: 91 \$12.99

Quinta do Crasto Douro Reserva Old Vines 2003
Rich red, like biting into a German chocolate cake. There's a delicate, refined element with meat, mineral, dark plum and cassis. Long, luxurious finish of chocolate and mocha spice. Best thru 2010.
Wine Spectator: 92 \$24.99

Renwood Old Vines Zinfandel 2003
A nice balance of tannins, acidity and fruit, and an elegantly tailored mouthfeel. The flavors are pure Zin: Wild berries and coffee to white pepper and bitter chocolate.
Wine Enthusiast: 90 \$11.99

Rosenblum Petite Sirah Heritage Old Vines 2004
A dense ruby-purple hue, glorious aromas of crème de cassis, vanilla, incense and blackberries. Full-bodied, tannic, chewy, rich, pedal-to-the-metal effort with low acidity as well as ripe tannins. Should age well for 15-20 years.
Wine Advocate: 92 \$14.99

Warre's Vintage Port 2003
A concentrated, backward effort, its youthful, classically ungenerous, masculine character reveals black pepper laced dark fruits. Silky-textured in its immensely endowed mid-palate, this top-flight effort displays an admirably long, tannin-filled finish. Requires serious cellaring.
Robert Parker: 93 \$59.99

Coldisole Brunello di Montalcino 2000
Thick and chewy, with blackberry and tobacco character. Full-bodied, with a long finish. Really well done. Best after 2006.
Wine Spectator: 90 \$34.99

Feudi di San Gregorio Greco di Tufo 2005
Multi-layered lemon rind, apple, pineapple. Medium- to full-bodied, with good banana and light caramel flavors. Very long and flavorful. Drink now.
Wine Spectator: 90 \$15.99

Casa Lapostolle Cuvee Alexander Chardonnay 2004
Focused and elegant, with deceptive length and power, this lets lush apple, pear, fig and toast notes stretch along languidly, yet never becomes tiring to drink.
Wine Spectator: 90 \$16.99

Te Kairanga Sauvignon Blanc 2005
Fragrant, floral and brimming with passion fruit, guava and lime that remain zingy and elevated through the long, bracing finish. Everything you could want in a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now.
Wine Spectator: 91 \$12.99

Chateau Ste. Michelle Eroica Riesling 2005
Lovely aromas display white flowers, spices, and linden. On the palate, this light to med. bodied effort reveals superb focus in its pure, harmonious personality. Spices, minerals, linden, and chamomile make up this seamless wine's character.
Wine Spectator: 90 \$16.99

SPECIAL Values OF THE MONTH

Di Majo Norante Sangiovese 2005
Offers an amazing display of strawberry and black cherry fruit intermixed with floral, new saddle leather, and earth notes. A stunning example of Sangiovese that should drink well for 2-3 years. Incredible value for the money.
Robert Parker: 90 \$6.99

Tasca d'Almerita Regaleali Bianco 2005
The Wine Advocate's Best Buy for value-priced wines from Sicily. A blend of Inzolia, Catarratto, and Greco bianco grapes, possessing a remarkable freshness. This crisp, elegant white has aromas of green apples, white peaches, and lemon zest emerging from its med.-bodied, fruity personality. With good acidity and a superb finish, this stunning 2005 will drink well for 1-2 years.
Robert Parker: 90 \$6.99

Falesco Vitiano Rosso 2004
Lovely balance and clean plum, berry and chocolate character, medium body and polished tannins. The perfect house wine-a great value. Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauv. Drink now thru 2010.
Wine Spectator: 90 \$7.99

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