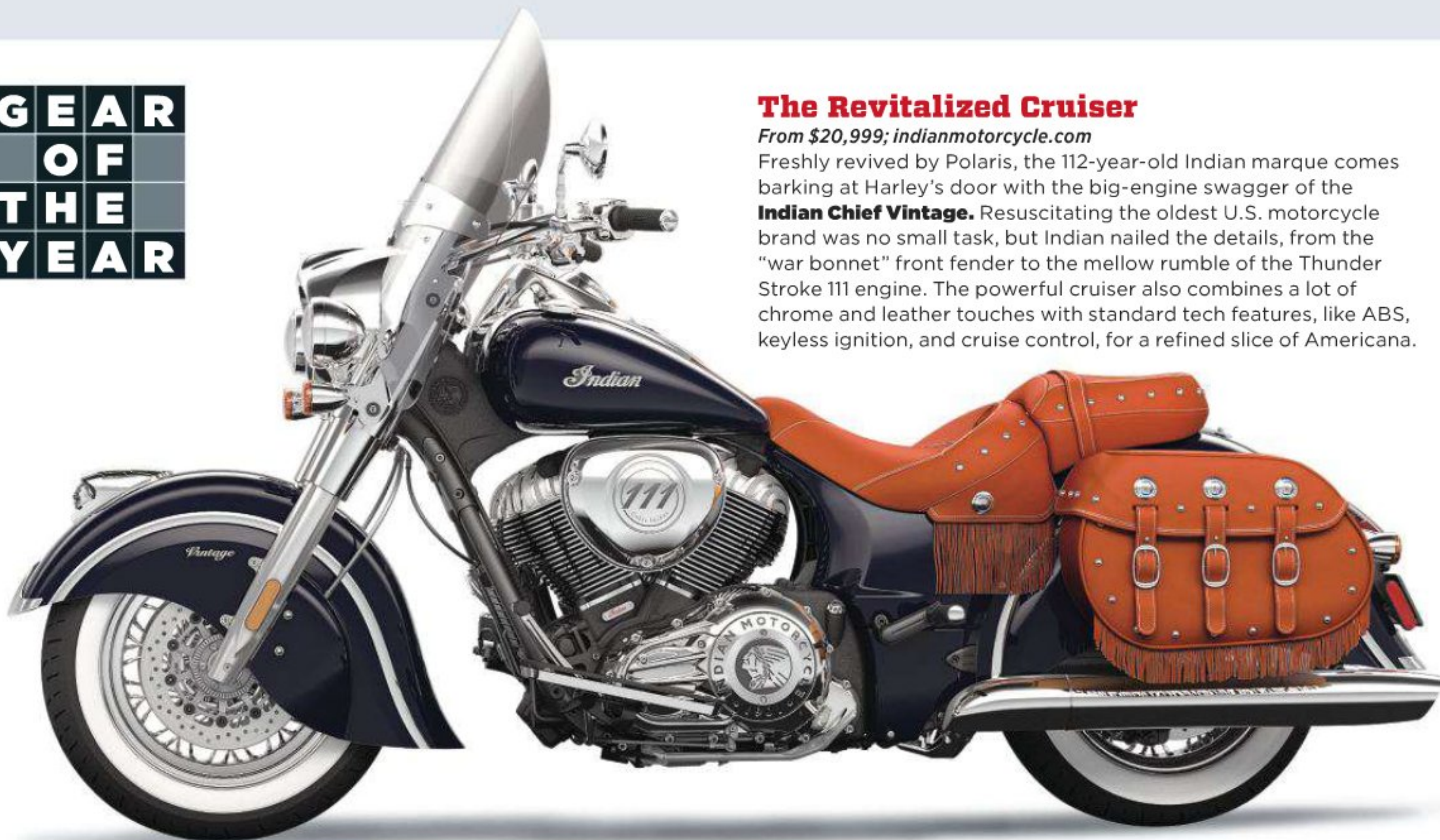


**GEAR
OF
THE
YEAR**



The Revitalized Cruiser

From \$20,999; indianmotorcycle.com

Freshly revived by Polaris, the 112-year-old Indian marque comes barking at Harley's door with the big-engine swagger of the **Indian Chief Vintage**. Resuscitating the oldest U.S. motorcycle brand was no small task, but Indian nailed the details, from the "war bonnet" front fender to the mellow rumble of the Thunder Stroke 111 engine. The powerful cruiser also combines a lot of chrome and leather touches with standard tech features, like ABS, keyless ignition, and cruise control, for a refined slice of Americana.



The Hands-Free Phone

From \$100 with 2-year contract; motorola.com
The Google-backed **Motorola Moto X** — outfitted with a 4.7-inch AMOLED display and sprightly Snapdragon processor — is the first smartphone to have a true hands-free system, and it's stunning. Even without touching the phone, you can simply say a command aloud — driving directions, Web searches, texts, calls — and marvel as it nails the results and speaks them back.



The Safer Navigation System

\$150; garmin.com

Gadgets in the car can be dangerous distractions. Even on-dash GPS devices create blind spots, which is why the **Garmin HUD** is such a brilliant solution. It casts a translucent image of navigation data (turn info, traffic, etc.) on the windshield so you never have to glance away from the road to know where you're headed.



The Easy-Swing Hammer

\$35; stanleytools.com

The hammer may not seem like a tool in need of a redesign, but one swing of the **Stanley FatMax Anti-Vibe Hammer** and you'll get it. A rubber barrier separates the steel head of the 14-ounce hammer from the sturdy handle and dampens the vibrations on impact. That means using this well-balanced tool actually gives your hand a break while you work.

BREAKTHROUGH: THE REMOTE-CONTROL LOCK

Smart devices have invaded our homes the past few years, giving us the ability to control everything from lights to the thermostat with the swipe of an app. But the front door was largely ignored. That changed this year with such products as the **August Smart Lock** (\$199, shown), which senses when you are at the door — via a low-energy Bluetooth signal from your phone — and automatically unlocks. There's also the **Kwikset Kevo** (\$219), which requires just a simple tap of your finger for keyless entry (provided your phone is in your pocket), and the **Lockitron** (\$179), which easily installs right over your current setup and lets you double-check that your door is locked from anywhere in the world. They're smarter, safer, and far more convenient thanks to the ability to grant friends, or even the electrician, access by sending a time-sensitive digital "key" to anyone's phone. It's an update we've been waiting for, and it means the days of leaving a spare key under the mat are officially over.

