



# R: EVOLUTION

NAMCO SAYS "HEY, GT4, EAT ME!"

BREAKING NEWS

➔ While the world goes ape over the new *Gran Turismo 4* shots (how much more realistic can car games actually get anyway?), Namco is quietly preparing to unleash its response, *R: Racing Evolution*, later this fall. Designed by the *Ridge Racer* team, *Racing Evolution* will, unlike the team's previous games, be available on PlayStation 2, GameCube, and Xbox.

Despite the *Ridge Racer* pedigree, *Racing Evolution* won't play with that powerslide-happy style of gameplay. According to Namco, *Racing Evolution* combines "fantastic cinematics and high-performance driving physics with a spectacular story line." Our pals in *Tekken*-land also say that *Evolution* "chronicles the passionate competition

and deep rivalries found only within the professional racing circuit." Exactly how fantastic cinematics and passionate competition will translate to the race course is uncertain, but we've been told that it's somewhere in between *Ridge Racer* and *Gran Turismo*. While that sounds nifty on paper, in our minds we think *Auto Modellista* and start to cry. But since *Ridge* never did us wrong, we'll keep our heads up high and hope for the best. What is known is that the game features 11 tracks (as opposed to the mere less-than-a-handful usually found in *Ridge Racer* games) and eight different racing styles, including GT, rally, and drag.

While the game features your standard Arcade, Time Attack, and

Versus modes, the real meat of the game is found in the Racing Life mode, which is essentially the story mode, featuring hottie rivals Rena and Gina. In-game radio communication between you and your pit crew plays a large role during races, and a reward point system lets you earn power-ups and new abilities, as well as new cars. ▶◀

More info at [www.namco.com](http://www.namco.com)

→ All Namco racing games have a signature racing hottie representing the game. *Ridge Racer Type-4* has the alluring Reiko Nagase, *Ridge Racer V* has the skanky Ai Fukami, and even *MotoGP* has Hitomi Yoshino. *R: Racing Evolution* has Rena. Yes, we did not give you a last name, but it's not as if you actually care. You just care that she's wearing a skintight leather pit-crew suit with a bit of her black bra showing.

XB  
PC  
PS2  
GBA  
GC