



## Concorso Italiano— A Celebration of Italian Style

**F**rom the peaceful garden party of the Quail, it was off to the Celebration of Italy known as Concorso Italiano. On the grounds of the Black Horse Golf Club in Seaside, 1600 cars, nearly 600 of them Ferraris, gathered for the 2004 Concorso Italiano.

If The Quail is a garden party with cars, then Concorso is a Super Bowl halftime show with an Italian automotive theme. Under the watchful eye of new owners Jack and Leslie Wadsworth, Concorso continues to solidify its position as the greatest all-Italian automotive festival in the world. Hundreds of vendors, thousands of cars and tens of thousands of patrons combine to create an atmosphere that is part Concours d'Elegance, part carnival and all fun.

Last year, Automobili Lamborghini unveiled the new Gallardo at Concorso. This year, they held the North American debut of the Murciélago Roadster. As if the coupe version of the Murciélago was not outrageous enough, leave it to the engineers in Bologna to lop off the top and create a land-based jet fighter than encourages its occupants to cruise at 200 miles per hour while enjoying miles of headroom. Lamborghini brought two examples of their new roadster to the show and these were said to be the only two on the Continent. Rumor is

that both cars were sold within an hour of their appearance on the ramp.

After all the award-winning Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Alfas, Fiats and Maseratis collected their trophies one of the more obscure Italian exotics collected the top prize of the day – Best of Show. While not as well known as the works of Ferrari and Lamborghini the stunning 1968 Bizzarrini 5300 Spyder created by Giotto Bizzarrini, Powered by Corvette and owned by Mark and Allison Sassak, was a perfect choice to win the award. Since Italian sports cars are about power and passion and Concorso Italiano is about Italian sports cars, no one in attendance could question the sanity of the judges in picking the Sassak's Bizzarrini as the top car of the day.

Concorso has undergone lots of changes recently. Last year, it was a new home at Blackhorse. This year, it is the new ownership of Jack and Leslie Wadsworth. "I can't believe the enormity of it all," said Leslie just after she presented the Best of Show trophy to the Sassaks. "Jack and I just have such a huge passion for these cars. Being able to carry on the tradition of Concorso just fills us with an overwhelming sense of pride." Added Jack, "We don't want to lose the history of these great cars. Events like Concorso Italiano give the older generation a chance to pass their love and their knowledge onto a whole new generation of automobile enthusiasts.



**Mark Sassak and his 1968 Bizzarrini receive the Best of Show Trophy from Jack and Leslie Wadsworth.**



**Over 200 miles per hour with plenty of headroom. Lamborghini unveiled the Murciélago Roadster to North America at Concorso 2004. Both cars sold almost immediately after they left the ramp.**

*Top of page: If you own Orange County Ferrari, then you shouldn't be seen in anything other than the world's only orange Ferrari Enzo.*