

## British Marque Article

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Report from Monterey Part I: Concorso Italiano and Rolex Motorsports Reunion!

By Richard Hartwell

Photos by Pat Brosseau

Yes, "Car Week" – those phenomenal few days every August in Monterey, California. It's when the stars align and this area becomes a mecca for everything wonderful in motoring. In addition to the amazing Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance on Sunday, the week contains everything from the Carmel-by-the-Sea Concours, Tour D'elegance, Concours d'Lemons and on Saturday, two very special events – the Concorso Italiano and the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion.

In what has become the world's largest and most prestigious exotic and luxury Italian car show, the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Concorso Italiano took place at the Bayonet Black Horse Golf Club in Seaside. Like so many of the Monterey area's golf courses, Black Horse makes for a perfect venue for a car show, with ample parking on adjacent fairways, a paved cart path and phenomenal views which showcase the cars to perfection. The show, which hosted a record number of attendees, celebrated more than 1,000 works of Italian automotive art. Automotive enthusiasts were able to explore beauties from private collections from around the world. There were ten featured classes on display for 2018, which included: Alfa Romeo, De Tomaso, Ferrari, Fiat, Iso & Bizzarrini, Lamborghini, Lancia, Maserati, as well as a special coachworks and a global exotics collection, both comprised of non-Italian marques. There were even a few Jaguars lining the fairway in the non-Italian marques section.

The sea of red Ferrari's was a sight to behold. You would be hard-pressed to find anything like this anywhere on the planet. As it is Concorso tradition to honor Italian milestones, this year's event also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Ferrari Daytona, as well as the Lamborghini Espada and Islero. Event organizers also toasted the Alfa Romeo Giulia Super and four-door sedans, which included the Berlina, Alfetta, Milano, 164 and Giulia models.

One of the most exciting examples displayed at this year's show was the New Stratos, which made one of its first U.S. appearances. Based on the Ferrari F430, the New Stratos pays homage to the renowned Lancia Stratos, which is the undisputed king of rally championships of its time. Additionally, ATS Automobili Turismo Sport brought its ATS GT to the grounds. One of the best V8-powered GT on the market, the ATS GT's shape was born from Emanuele Bombai and is a true testament to Italian GT heritage.

The winner of the day, however, was the 1951 Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 Super Sport, the last 6C cabriolet ever built, which took the Best in Show award which was presented on the main stage at 3pm. Mitja Borkert, Lamborghini Head of Design, presented Herb and Rose Wysard of Fullerton, CA with a custom sculpture for this prestigious award.

"Concorso Italiano continues to be a guiding force in the automotive collector and enthusiast world and we are proud to showcase more exotics and collectibles than any other event during Monterey Historics Week," said Tom McDowell, Chairman of Concorso Italiano. "Attendees enjoyed a staggering amount of curated programming this year, from one-of-a-kind vehicles to automotive industry legends. We'd like to personally thank all of our partners, sponsors, participants and attendees for making this year's show a great success."

The Saturday before "Pebble" is also known for *the* premier racing event. The Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion, which runs for several days, was particularly inspirational on Saturday. This is the only event where cars are doing what they were originally intended to do – race. Approximately 550 race cars came to compete in this event. Each entry was scrutinized and accepted based on the car's authenticity, race provenance and period correctness. The event relives motorsport history at the iconic circuit, which has been the scene of America's golden years of sports

car racing since its inception in 1957. Rolex has been sponsoring motor racing for nearly a century, which makes perfect sense. Not only do they provide the actual instruments for timekeeping used, but racing is about the clock. The clock is everything. Rolex has provided all of that at Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion.

To have the chance to see rare, vintage racecars fly around Laguna Seca raceway is extraordinary. The opportunities, not just the cars, are special: oftentimes you can walk right up to pit crews, drivers or owners and speak with them about their magnificent vehicles and experiences. Who else could give the straight goods on what it takes to race vehicles that are up to 80 years old? Where else can you see a 1934 Alfa Romeo Tip B, a 1931 Bugatti 35C and a 1914 Mercer scream around a course (including the corkscrew) at speed? There were no less than four XK120's competing in Group 2A – 1947-1955 Racing and GT Cars in a field of 47. A great Jaguar C-type also competed in this category, with Nick Price at the helm. Congratulations to Terry Buffum, driving a 1949 Jaguar Parkinson Spl who took second place in this category. On another note, the all-electric Jaguar I\_PACE set the "showroom stock" at the racetrack at 1:48.18 with Randy Probst driving in the days leading up to the Reunion. No matter what you're looking for, you come here because you love cars.

There were several featured fan activities and special attractions. Two-time Formula One World Champion Mika Häkkinen performed exhibition laps for the second straight year on Saturday, this time behind the wheel of the 1995 Le Mans-winning McLaren F1 GTR chassis #01R. Special Awards were presented by racer and commentator Mike Joy and WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca Sr. Vice President of Events Gill Campbell in a ceremony to conclude the event on Sunday afternoon. The Spirit of Monterey award was given to Herb Wetanson.

There are plenty of classic European models, but this year there were also rare Japanese cars. And of course there are muscle cars that seem barely capable of squeezing down Laguna Seca's corkscrew turns. This event is a tribute to those who love the thrill of racing (anything with four wheels).

Next month, look for coverage of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and the Auctions!