

Alfa Romeo



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2018 Preview Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

As car aficionados began attending gatherings and festivals that celebrated examples of iconic vehicles of yesteryear, classic car shows sprung up around the country, likely kicked off by formalizing the concours concept in America with the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and Pebble Beach Road Races in 1950. In 1957, when Pebble Beach joined forces with Laguna Seca to offer historic racing, enthusiasts began gravitating en masse to the Monterey Peninsula for both the vintage racing and the concours.

A concours d'elegance, a French phrase, rates each entry for authenticity, function, history, style and quality of restoration by a team of judges that includes specialists for each car type. A perfect score is 100, but any





1946 6C 2500 Pinin Farina cabriolet

participants showed up at the Ritz-Carlton in Amelia Island for the first Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. Proceeds were donated to the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. Three years later, attendance had quadrupled to 8,500 attendees. Now 20,000 spectators enjoy the diversity of 314 automobiles being shown on the greens. More than \$3.25 million has been donated to the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida and other charitable non-profit organizations serving the local community.

In 2018, the 23rd Annual Amelia

Island Concours d'Elegance, featuring 300 cars will have a Cars and Coffee at the Concours, the RM/Sotheby's auction, seminars, ride-and-drives and even a fashion show. Last year, more than 140 trophies were awarded; the duPont Registry People's Choice Award went to Sam and Emily Mann's 1937 Delahaye 145 by Franay.

In his chairman's statement, founder Bill Warner poignantly acknowledges the connection people have with their special vehicles and the joy that comes from sharing their passion with like-minded enthusiasts. In Warner's words,

"After 22 years of The Amelia, I've come to believe that this is an event that can't be experienced anywhere else. The reason is people. That's the sole element of The Amelia Island Concours that is even more important than the extraordinary cars the event continues to attract or even its location.

"I'm flattered that we get so many wonderful cars from around the world. That speaks volumes about The Amelia's reputation. But it's people who have made The Amelia the double Octane Magazine award-winner that it has become. Watching them drive up the fairway to get their awards, to see the joy on their faces, is a priceless part of The Amelia. That connection between human and machine is something very special. I suppose that's why many people call The Amelia 'The Fun Concours' or the 'The Racer's Concours' and understand what we're trying to do."

The 23rd Annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, March 9-11, 2018, will honor Emerson Fittipaldi and the legendary racing and rally cars of the Martini International Racing Team. Event and ticket purchase information can be found at www.ameliaconcours.org. ■



Scuderia Ferrari 8C 2300 Alfa



Dan Scanlan (4)

By Cindy Banzer



imperfection, no matter how slight, requires a fractional point deduction. Classes are arranged by type, marque, coachbuilder, country of origin, and/or time period.

By the mid-1990s, East Coast collectors wanted high-quality concours on the Atlantic side of the country. A Louis Vuitton Classic car show was held for five years at Rockefeller Center, but

folded when Louis Vuitton withdrew support. Simultaneously, collectors in the southeast, specifically Florida, felt that their corner of the country would be perfect for a concours.

In 1996, Bill Warner and Tom Cotter businessmen and car collectors, heard the call, saw the need and founded the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. On April 6, 1996, 163 cars and 2,200