

DOWN IN MONTEREY

A WEEK OF CLASSIC CARS,
CAMARADERIE AND COMPETITION



PEBBLE BEACH

by James Nicholls

EVEN FOR TRUE COGNOSCENTI, THE DECISION ON WHAT IS THE GREATEST CLASSIC CAR SHOW IS A MATTER OF DEBATE

Some prefer the sophisticated Villa d'Este Concorso d'Eleganza, which first ran in 1929, and the oldest and most historic of all car shows. Others favour the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, which celebrated its 64th anniversary in August 2014. Pebble Beach is the culmination of what is known as Monterey Week, a week of all things related to classic cars and a truly American affair with everything grander and bigger than one might find elsewhere.

There are 50 cars on show at Villa d'Este in Italy, with a major auction taking place on alternate years. At Pebble Beach though, there are 250 vehicles at the Concours and at least half a dozen international auctions each year. This year, they took in over US\$400 million in sales. The star lots came in the form of a 1962 Ferrari 250 *Gran Turismo Omologato* (GTO), which was sold by Bonhams for a world record price of US\$38.115 million, and a 1964 Ferrari 275 *GTB/C Speciale* by RM Auctions for US\$26.4 million.

Prior to the big day on Sunday, spectators already got their fill of classic cars events, such as the Bonhams Champagne Breakfast, or at the Gooding Cocktail Party. On Tuesday, more than 200 cars took part in the Carmel Concours on Ocean Avenue in Carmel-by-the-Sea. For those into vintage race cars, the Monterey Motorsports Reunion at the Laguna Seca Raceway in Salinas was the prime destination with nearly 600 vehicles raced in a variety of classes over three days.

FROM TOP

Judges grading the classic cars

Vintage race cars ready to race at the Laguna Seca Raceway

OPPOSITE PAGE

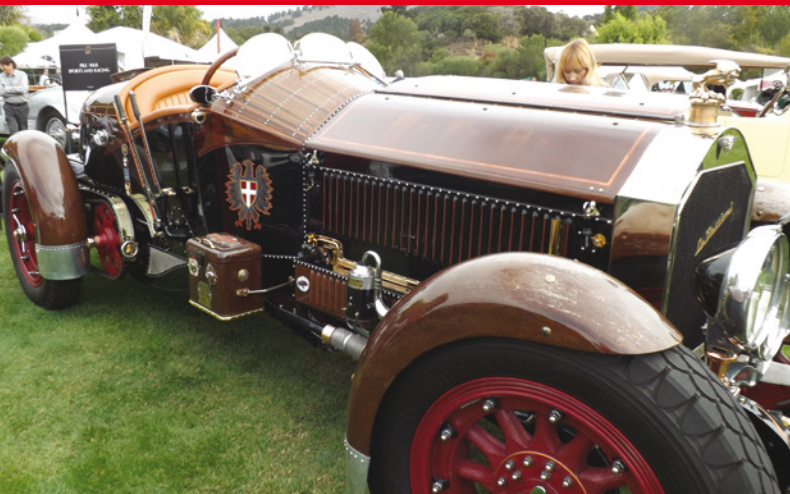
Ferrari 250 GTO Belinetta

Image courtesy of Bonhams




PEBBLE BEACH IS THE CULMINATION OF WHAT IS KNOWN AS MONTEREY WEEK — A WEEK OF ALL THINGS RELATED TO CLASSIC CARS

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It was on Thursday though that the real action kicked off. Bright and early in the misty morning, the Pebble Beach cars headed off for a 17-mile scenic drive to Carmel, and went on display along Ocean Avenue. Meanwhile, the RM Auction was under way at Monterey, and the Bonhams Quail Lodge Auction started at Carmel Valley.

Big auctions continued until Friday, and on that same day another highlight was presented — The Quail, a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Maserati.

Sunday saw the Gooding Auction at Pebble Beach round off the week in grand style. For the grand finale, an array of beautiful cars was displayed on the fairway of the famous 18th hole at the Pebble Beach Golf Links. The cars were judged by a distinguished panel of experts in a variety of special categories. This year, some of those judged included the Maserati *Centennial*, along with classes for Ferrari 250 *Testa Rossa*, Early Steam Cars, Streamlined Tatra, and the 1914 French Grand Prix inter alia. 

250 of some of the oldest and most historic cars were displayed at the Concours, gathering many classic car enthusiasts