

CLASSIC DRIVER

The Concours on the Avenue 2008



There can be no better way of starting the Monterey classic car week than visiting the concours held in the delightful streets of Carmel. Held over two days, with an evening party on the first night, the Concours on the Avenue is now firmly a 'must-do' event and gently introduces visitors to the days of automotive action ahead.

And even better, it's free for spectators, too.

The French would call it *en fête*. Under the careful guidance of organisers **Doug and Genie Freedman**, even the trash cans are tastefully covered, or decorated with flowers. The whole town enters into the spirit of the occasion as well, with specially themed shops competing for the **Concours in the Windows** award.

Monday was reserved for **Ferrari** and **Porsche**, with Tuesday **Multi-Marque** day. Your correspondent touched down at SFO on Monday afternoon, then drove direct to Carmel for the evening's gala cocktail party.

Well, you have to start as you mean to go on.



Come Tuesday and the streets were full of cars ranging from a **1954 International Harvester R-140 ½-ton Wagon 'Woodie'** (competing in the **'American Family Favorites - '50s'** class) to a **1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL 'Gullwing'**, one of two such cars in **'German Sport'**. In between, barring pre-War classics, just about every interest was catered for, including some 'fun' entries like the **Micro Cars**, the **Dune Buggies** and the 'time-warp' **1969 Ford E200 Travel Wagon**, looking as if it had just emerged from an episode of *Scooby-Doo*.

'American Family Favorites - '60s' encompassed the aforementioned **Travel Wagon** as well as a **1969 Chevrolet Camaro SS/RS**, and the **Hot Rod** class had some superb entries such as local man (and **Scarab** aficionado, like no other) **Donald Orosco's** fantastic **1932 Ford 'Riley' Roadster**, complete with V8 converted from 'flathead' to OHV with a period Riley modification.





Two-wheeled enthusiasts were not neglected as the **Motorcycle** class had some superb entries including another from **Orosco**, the **1962 BSA Gold Star TT scrambler**. There were also classes for **'Muscle'** and **'American Sport'** – although it would take a braver man than me to separate the two.

With knowledgeable commentary by local Ferrari historian and all-round classic car guru **Michael T. Lynch** and TV presenter **Ed Justice**, the day was an absorbing and interesting one for casual visitor and expert alike. A chance to do some shopping, have lunch in one of Carmel's many superb cafes and restaurants, or walk down to the Pacific (the 'Ocean' in question), meet new friends and see some great cars; the 2008 **Concours on the Avenue** had it all.



On Tuesday, the **Dennis A. LeVett Best in Show Award** was presented to **Kevin Oliver**, who manages **Larry Bowman's 1965 Shelby Cobra 289** (chassis CSX2494, a USRRC Shelby team car).



The previous day, the **1957 Ferrari 250 GT Series I Pininfarina Cabriolet** (chassis 0655GT, the first of four prototypes, and built for then-Ferrari team driver, **Peter Collins**) owned by **Robert M. Lee**, of Reno, Nevada, won the **Tom and Virginia Jennaro Best of Show Award**.

Lee, pictured below with the **Tiffany** girls and **Scott Bergan**, curator of the **Robert M. Lee Collection**, has been a longtime friend of the **Pininfarina** family.

He dedicated his win to the late **Andrea Pininfarina**.



A recommended event for 2009.

For further details, see www.motorclubevents.com.





With special thanks to [Will Edgar](#), historian, photographer and key member of the Carmel car scene, who not only introduced me to many people but also described the event so well in his [preview for Classic Driver not so long ago](#).

Text: [Steve Wakefield](#)

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