

RM Auction Sports & Classics of Monterey

\$4.5 million Ferrari 250 GT leads the pack of seven-figure cars

RM Auction continued their highly successful sales run, with twelve cars breaking the magic million dollar mark at the legendary Sports & Classics of Monterey auction, August 15 and 16. Held at the Portola Hotel & Spa in downtown Monterey, it was standing room only as over 170 investment-quality collector cars crossed the block before an international audience. As the gavel fell for the final time, total sales passed \$44 million.

"The strength of our European sales had a positive affect on the weekend's auction, with many of our international clients in attendance. The sales were in line with our expectations with several new records, and with seven of the twelve 'million dollar sales' being vintage Ferraris, results indicate the continuing strength of the market for the world's most famous sports and racing marque," said Ian Kelleher, Managing Director of RM Auctions.

The top seller of the sale was a show quality 1961 Ferrari 250 GT SWB Berlinetta which brought a final bid of \$4,510,000. Another highlight was the 1961 Ferrari 400 Superamerica Coupe for an impressive \$1,650,000. Also attracting significant interest on the block were the prestigious luxury cars – a 1933 Rolls-Royce Phantom II Special Town Car, which brought \$2,310,000, and a 1930 Duesenberg Model J Dual Cowl Phaeton for \$1,760,000.

A one-of-a-kind custom-bodied 1954 Cramer Comet roadster was a rafter-shaking crowd-pleaser. Built by Omaha-based mechanic Tom Cramer, it was crafted as a two-place high-performance passenger car. Powered by a 1,350-hp 12-cylinder Allison aircraft engine—the type that powered the P-51 Mustang—the car combines elements of automotive and aircraft engineering and features an innovative cooling system that is channeled through the frame. The car is capable of estimated speeds of 160 miles an hour. The Comet was purchased by its current owner in 1991 directly from Mr. Cramer. The Comet sold for \$150,000 against



an estimate of \$250,000-300,000.

Additional highlights included: an ultra rare 1948 Tucker Sedan which achieved a new world record price of \$1,017,500; a 1967 Ferrari 275 GTB/4 Berlinetta for \$1,925,000; and a 1973 Ferrari 365 GTB/4 Daytona Spyder which was won with a bid of \$1,485,000. ■



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