

# THE 2ND ANNUAL ARIZONA CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

Arizona Biltmore Resort, 24th and Camelback | Sunday, January 11, 2015

The Arizona Concours d'Elegance will serve as the start of January classic car auction week in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area for the second time this year, following a highly successful inaugural event. This select display of exception-



al vintage automobiles takes place on the manicured inner lawns of the historic Arizona Biltmore Resort in Phoenix on Sunday, January 11, 2015.

The 2015 Concours will include more than 20 judged classes. Well-known veteran concours judge John Carlson will serve as chief judge, as he did last year. Also returning is Keith Martin, the charismatic publisher of *Sports Car Market* and *American Car Collector*, as host and emcee.

## Frank Lloyd Wright cars to be featured

Frank Lloyd Wright—widely acclaimed as the most influential American architect of the twentieth century—was also a dedicated auto enthusiast whose artistic eye influenced his choices of fine luxury and sporting vehicles. The Concours will feature cars owned by Wright, including this rare piece of motoring history: a 1937 AC 16/80 "Ace" roadster owned and driven by Wright.

A classic, upscale British sports car of the pre-



Frank Lloyd Wright and his wife Olgivanna enjoy the 1937 AC roadster at Taliesin West in 1948. (Photo courtesy of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation)

war era, the AC will appear just as it did when owned by Wright. He purchased the car in 1948 and immediately had it repainted Cherokee Red, the signature color he favored for nearly all his cars. The AC has a strong Arizona connection. It was driven by Wright and his wife Olgivanna, typically bedecked in sporty fabric helmets and goggles, during winter stays at his Taliesin West home and architecture school in Scottsdale.

David and Rochelle Buice of Dallas have owned the AC since 1974. It has been undergoing a total restoration for the past two years. The car is fully documented as the AC used by Wright and owned by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation until 1969. This is the car's post-restoration debut after being out of the public eye for over 40 years.

The AC roadster will be among a collection of Wright's most interesting cars that will appear during this year's Arizona Concours. The Cars of Frank Lloyd Wright class was inspired by the architecture of the Arizona Biltmore host facility, which was heavily influenced by Wright, who served as a consultant for the design of the Phoenix luxury hotel, which opened in 1929.

## Sir Stirling Moss to attend

British auto racing legend Sir Stirling Moss OBE will be an honored guest at the Arizona Concours d'Elegance, attending with his wife, Lady Susie Moss. Entrants and spectators will have an opportunity to meet him as he takes in the event. Moss, an active octogenarian and acclaimed world-traveling diplomat for historic motorsports, competed in vintage racing events until just a few years ago. He still provides on-track demonstra-



British auto racing legend Sir Stirling Moss OBE.

tions of some of his most famous race cars and regularly takes part in classic car rallies.

Moss began his remarkable motorsports career in 1948 at the age of 18, driving a Cooper 500—purchased with his winnings from horsemanship competitions. His exceptional driving skills soon earned him coveted spots with the world's greatest racing teams. During his career through 1962, Moss competed in 529 races and won 212 of them, driving 84 different marques in a wide variety of sports and grand prix classes and events. Moss is recognized as one of the greatest Formula 1 drivers ever, though he never won a world championship, but did come in runner-up four times.

Perhaps the most memorable race of Moss's career was the 1,000-mile classic Mille Miglia of Italy in 1955, driving a streamlined Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR at an average speed of 97.96 mph on public roads. Sir Stirling finished far ahead of the competition and set a course record that was never equaled.

Moss retired from professional racing in 1962 after a near-fatal crash at Goodwood. These days, much of his global travel and personal appearances are as brand ambassador for Mercedes-Benz Classic.

## Auction week forum and race car design panel

The Arizona Concours d'Elegance has added two featured events, both on Saturday, January 10, in the Grand Ballroom of the Arizona Biltmore. The public may attend what should be a fascinating afternoon of classic and competition car talk.

**AUCTION PREVIEW:** From noon till 1:30 pm is an annual auction week preview hosted by the Phoenix Automotive Press Association (PAPA) and moderated by automotive journalist and author Larry Edsall. A panel of collector car experts will discuss trends in today's market and which cars they expect to get all the attention during the six auctions happening that coming week, through January 17. Representatives from all six auctions—Barrett-Jackson, Bonhams, Gooding & Company, RM Auctions, Russo and Steele, and Silver Auctions—will present highlights of consignments for their upcoming sales.



(L-R, top-bottom) Race panelists Nigel Bennett, Peter Brock, Kip Wasenko; moderator Lyn St. James.

**RACE DESIGN FORUM:** Next, from 2 pm until 4pm, is a panel discussion entitled *Elegance at Speed*, with three top designers speaking about race car design over the decades, moderated by veteran race driver Lyn St. James, the second woman to race the Indianapolis 500 and the first to be selected Rookie of the Year, in 1992.

Panelists include Nigel Bennett, designer of F1 and Indycars, who spent 10 years at Penske Racing, contributing to 53 wins and five driver championships; Peter Brock, best known for designing the Cobra Daytona Coupe for Carroll Shelby's team at Le Mans, among his many accomplishments; and Kip Wasenko, former director of design for GM's Cadillac Division and designer of Cadillac's Le Mans Prototype (LMP).

**TICKETS:** One \$50 ticket gains entry to both events, available online at [www.arizonaconcours.com/product-category/ticket](http://www.arizonaconcours.com/product-category/ticket). Seating is limited.

## Rare Pierce-Arrow Silver Arrow entered

One of the most elegant and evocative automobiles of the classic era, this rare 1933 Pierce-Arrow Silver Arrow—which will appear in a special Pierce-Arrow featured class—is one of just five built and three known to survive. As part of the late William F. Harrah's extensive automobile collection in Reno, the magnificent sedan was fully restored by that world-famous facility and is now owned by the Academy of Art University Automobile Museum in San Francisco.

Designed by Philip Wright, the Silver Arrow embodied advanced concepts of streamlined design, while staying true to the Art Deco styling ethos of the period. The model was introduced at the New York Auto Show in January 1933, stunning the crowd with an exciting vision of the future. A milestone of automotive design, it changed how automakers styled their most impor-



tant cars from then on. The slogan at its introduction said it all: "Suddenly it's 1940!"

The Silver Arrow is of monumental size, though its fluid body lines create a feeling of lightweight speed. Its powerful V12 produced a top speed of 115 mph. The Buffalo NY manufacturer was struggling from the Great Depression and seeking much-needed attention for its luxury lineup. Its then-exorbitant price of \$10,000 may explain why only five were sold. Pierce-Arrow did not survive the 1930s, but is remembered among the greatest marques of the classic era.

## Cars of Carrozzeria Ghia featured class

Three of the most famous 1950s creations from one of Italy's leading auto designers and coach-builders will be featured in a Cars of Carrozzeria Ghia class at the Arizona Concours.

The 1953 Cadillac Series 62 Coupe by Ghia—entered by the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles—was one of the best-known cars of its day, a gift to actress Rita Hayworth from the wealthiest man in the world, Prince Ali Khan, her husband at the time. One of two Cadillac concepts built by Ghia for the 1953 Paris Auto Salon, Khan saw it and had to have it for his wife.

Chrysler's then-new head of design Virgil Exner turned to Ghia to help shed an image for stodgy automobiles, and the 1954 Plymouth Explorer by Ghia—also from the Petersen Museum—was the result. This exotic dream car would quickly become part of the automaker's design language.



Third is an exotic 1954 Fiat 8V, the only car from Ghia that was not bodied in their familiar Supersonic form and the final example using the jewel-like 2-liter Fiat 8V engine.

Other Ghia designs will join these, honoring the 100th anniversary of the Turin design house. ■

## Arizona Concours tickets and information



To ensure a spacious and enjoyable concours experience at this dramatic location, the organizers have limited the number of tickets sold. Spectators have been urged to purchase tickets early or risk missing this unique event. Check for ticket availability and general information at [www.arizonaconcours.com](http://www.arizonaconcours.com).

## Concours merchandise

A selection of men's and women's Arizona Concours d'Elegance hats, shirts and jackets can be purchased at [www.arizonaconcours.com](http://www.arizonaconcours.com). •