

Photo: Michael Tobian, Arizona Concours



The 3rd Annual Arizona Concours d'Elegance

Arizona Biltmore Resort, 24th and Camelback
Saturday-Sunday, January 23-24, 2016

The third annual Arizona Concours d'Elegance, an exclusive celebration of fine automobiles in an intimate setting at the historic Arizona Biltmore Resort, will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2016, serving once again as the startup and focal point for the annual Classic Car Week in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area.

ZAGATO: One of the most famous and esteemed Italian design houses, Carrozzeria Zagato, will be spotlighted at the Arizona Concours with its own featured class, Coachwork of Zagato, with an expected dozen examples of the expressive automotive designs of the Milanese company. Honored guests at the event will be chief executive Andrea Zagato, the third generation of his family to lead Zagato since its founding in 1919, and his wife Marella, granddaughter of Renzo Rivolta, founder of ISO Rivolta of Bresso. Concours participants will be able to gain perspective about this important design firm, viewing the artistry of its illustrious past while learning more about its present and future. Andrea and Marella Zagato (shown above) have worked together to return Carrozzeria Zagato to prominence on the worldwide stage. They reacquired the historic Zagato premises outside of Milan and proceeded with the long-term restoration to build a new corporate structure.

100TH RUNNING OF THE INDY 500: The Arizona Concours will lead the nation's celebration of the May 29 100th running of the Indianapolis 500—America's greatest motorsports spectacle—with significant Indy race cars from the past, a display of historic artifacts and a very special preview event. Indianapolis Motor Speedway opened in 1909 and held its inaugural 500-mile race in 1911 (shown above, the first turn of the first running), which then took place every year except during wartime. The Arizona Concours will feature historic race cars from the Hall of Fame Museum at Indy, as well as the actual Borg-Warner Trophy with portraits of revered Indy winners sculpted on its surface. The Indy 500 tribute also has special significance for Arizona, since Verizon IndyCar Series organizers announced in October that IndyCar racing is returning to Phoenix International Raceway, with the inaugural Phoenix Grand Prix scheduled for April 2, 2016.

FEATURED CLASSES: The event has announced three featured classes for 2016: in addition to Coachwork of Zagato are featured classes for Duesenberg and Exceptional Cars of Great Britain. These will join more than a dozen standing classes that will be judged during the Concours, culminating in the Best of Show.



Photo: Indianapolis Motor Speedway



Among the lineup is an extremely rare short-wheelbase 1935 Duesenberg SSJ (shown above) with impeccable celebrity history, originally owned by Hollywood megastar Gary Cooper. The sporting convertible, from the Revs Institute for Automotive Research, Inc. collection in Florida, is one of only two "super-short" wheelbase SSJs produced. The other was loaned by a local dealer to another Hollywood leading man, Clark Gable, who was a close friend of Cooper's and wanted to drive a car like his. The Gary Cooper SSJ, serial number 2594, was built on a 125-inch wheelbase rather than Duesenberg's customary 142.4- or 153.5-inch lengths, giving the distinctive car a rakish and sporting appearance behind the bold signature Duesenberg grille. The supercharged straight-8 engine was rated at 400 hp, with a top speed of more than 130 mph.

The flamboyant SSJ models continued the evolution of the famous Duesenberg J, the crowning achievement of engineer and designer Fred Duesenberg. The massive luxury cars were created by Duesenberg at the urging of EL Cord, who bought the bankrupt company in 1926 and wanted to build the greatest automobile ever produced. The grand and powerful Duesenberg J was introduced in December 1928 and quickly became the favored mount of the world's most wealthy and famous people.

Another prized entry in the Arizona Concours' Duesenberg Class is the renowned 1935 Duesenberg Model SJ Speedster known as the Mormon Meteor that the legendary Ab Jenkins drove to a number of land speed records on the Bonneville Salt Flats.

SATURDAY EVENTS: Three special events take place at the Arizona Biltmore on Saturday, January 23: • The Phoenix Automotive Press Association will moderate representatives from the major collector car auctions for an auction week preview, from 10 to 11:30am. • A celebration of the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500, from 12 noon to 1:30pm, features a panel of winning drivers from past Indy 500 races, including Arie Luyendyk and Tom Sneva, moderated by Lyn St. James, the first female driver to be selected Rookie of the Year. • From Concept to Collectable, 2 to 3:30pm, features two of the world's leading automotive designers: Andrea Zagato (see above) and J Mays, former head of global design for Ford Motor Company.

TICKETS: A \$60 Saturday ticket allows entry to any or all of the three events. Seating is limited and all tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tickets for the Sunday Concours are limited (2015 sold out), so buy in advance for \$80 at www.arizonaconcours.com. Tickets are \$100 at the gate, if any remain available. Children 12 and younger are admitted free when accompanied by a ticket holder.

The Arizona Concours benefits Make-A-Wish® Arizona, the founding chapter of the national foundation that grants wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions. Over \$70,000 was raised to fund future wishes during the 2015 event. ■



Photo: Joe Sage

Arizona Auction Week

★ Note later dates this year: January 23-31, 2016

Barrett-Jackson

45th Annual Collector Car Auction Event
Saturday, January 23 - Sunday, January 31, 2016

WestWorld - Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd at AZ Loop 101 - Scottsdale

Barrett-Jackson is the granddaddy of them all, hitting its 45th year for 2016. Last January, Barrett-Jackson once again broke their own records, with sales over \$130 million, as they sold 1,611 cars to a record number of bidders over 10 days. Figures were boosted considerably by sale of the Ron Pratte Collection—their largest consignment ever—which in itself raised \$40.44 million in vehicles and automobilia combined. Automobilia sales nearly tripled prior world records, with some 2,000 pieces bringing over \$6.55 million. Vehicles sold for the benefit of local and national charities raised \$8.6 million, with celebrities from Sharon Stone to Jeff Gordon boosting the excitement. For 2016, an Early Bird All-Week Pass is \$150 for an adult, \$100 for senior, military or student with ID (gate prices were not yet published). Daily tickets are available, with prices varying day to day, as well as full day to evening, from \$7 to \$48 per single day for Early Birds (more at the gate), with special rates for seniors, military, students and kids. ▼ Barrett-Jackson hosts annual auctions in Scottsdale, Palm Beach and Las Vegas, and recently announced a new one in the Northeast. www.barrett-jackson.com

Bonhams

5th Annual Scottsdale Auction
Thursday, January 28, 2016 (viewing Tuesday-Thursday, January 26-28)
Westin Kierland Resort & Spa - 6902 E Greenway Pkwy - Scottsdale

The fifth annual Bonhams Scottsdale Auction returns to the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, promising something exceptional from among the world's finest motorcars. Last January, a stunningly beautiful, fast and historic 1966 Ferrari 275 GTB Competizione crossed the block at Bonhams at \$9,405,000, a new world auction record for the model, one of the most valuable cars ever auctioned in Arizona and just a hair's-breadth shy of top seller for the week. Despite a rarified atmosphere, we have seen tantalizingly affordable purchases at Bonhams, perhaps because it is newest among the high-strata auctions here. Entry: \$20 gallery guide admits one; \$100 full catalog admits two; \$150 bidder registration includes catalog and admits two. ▼ Bonhams—since 1793—hosts a wide variety of auctions worldwide throughout the year. www.bonhams.com

Gooding & Company

9th Annual Scottsdale Auction
Friday-Saturday, January 29-30, 2016 (viewing Weds-Sat, January 27-30)
Fashion Square - 4700 N Scottsdale Rd, corner of E Highland Ave - Scottsdale

Gooding & Company works the top end of the hobby with a focus on "best-of-category" vehicles. Gooding often has the highest single sale of the week, but last year did not, though they did sell eleven cars in seven figures and set 25 new auction records during their two-day sale totaling \$51.5 million, with a 90 percent sell-through rate. The 114 cars they sold (out of 126) averaged a healthy \$451,900 each. Jay Leno donated his personal 2008 Dodge Challenger SRT8 for charity, raising \$565,625 for the USO—\$360,000 from the winning bid plus over \$200,000 in donations from other bidders and attendees. General admission to the viewing and auction is \$40 per person. An auction catalog for \$100 admits two to the viewing and auction. Children under 12 attend for free. For bidders, \$200 includes a catalog, admission for two to the viewing and auction with reserved seats (as available). ▼ Gooding & Company is the official auction of Pebble Beach Concours and has an auction during Amelia Island. www.goodingco.com

RM Sotheby's

17th Annual Automobiles of Arizona
Thursday-Friday, January 28-29, 2016 (preview Weds-Fri, January 27-29)
Arizona Biltmore - 2400 E Missouri Ave - Phoenix AZ 85016 - (24th and Camelback)

For 2016, RM Sotheby's will again run a two-day Arizona sale. Last January was RM's strongest performance in Arizona to date, generating \$63.7 million in sales, a nearly 40 percent increase over 2014. The 2015 event also featured the most valuable automobile sold in Arizona auction history: a 1964 Ferrari 250 LM selling at \$9,625,000. RM's 2016 Arizona sale will present more than 100 blue-chip automobiles from the world's most notable marques, from pre-war classics to important sports and racing cars and contemporary supercars. Admission to the preview is open to the general public. The auction is limited to bidders and consignors only. Bidder registration includes the catalog and admission for two for \$200. ▼ RM Auctions is the official auction of Amelia Island Concours and hosts auctions worldwide. www.rmauctions.com

Russo and Steele

16th Annual Sports & Muscle in Scottsdale
Thursday-Sunday, January 28-31, 2016 (preview Weds-Sun, January 27-31)
180601 N Scottsdale Rd and E Mayo Blvd at AZ Loop 101 - Scottsdale

Phoenix-based Russo and Steele features American muscle cars, classic European sports cars, and hot rods and customs. Last January's event generated roughly \$20 million, with some of its most notable successes in European sports car. Russo had emphasized a strength with Porsche 911s, Jaguar XK120 roadsters, and early Mercedes-Benz 300SL roadsters, for each of which they emerged with the top sale out of all six auctions here last year. Russo's number one sale of a 1957 Mercedes-Benz 300SL roadster at \$1.43 million beat three similars at Bonhams and RM. Their sale of a 1974 Porsche 911 2.7 RS for \$305,500 beat 911 sales from RM and Gooding. And among early '50s Jaguar XK120 roadsters, Russo's \$143,000 sale of a 1953 model beat Gooding and Barrett-Jackson. Russo's week also includes a charity gala, memorabilia auction, seminars and panel discussions. General admission is \$20 for one day, \$55 for three days or \$80 for five days. Bidder registration is \$200. ▼ Russo and Steele hosts annual auctions in Scottsdale, Newport Beach and Monterey. www.russoandsteele.com

Silver Auctions

19th Annual Fort McDowell AZ Auction
Thursday-Saturday, January 28-30, 2016 (check-in begins Weds Jan 27)
Fort McDowell Resort & Casino - (AZ 87 Beeline Highway, north of Fountain Hills)

Silver Auction grows each year as an alternative where thousands of buyers and sellers can find real cars, real deals and a lot of fun. While the average car sold at most of the other auctions is well into six figures, the average at Silver is about \$15,000. Attend Silver as a bidder, and see what strikes your fancy. There's something for any budget—except a seven-figure car you would never dare drive. Head there with \$5000 or \$50,000 in your pocket and come out as a happy new owner. Visit their website and skim the list. Some may be replicas, tributes or not quite accurate originals, but that's all part of the fun (and the value). Admission is \$20, children under 12 free. ▼ Silver is the only one with multiple events in Arizona, returning in March and in November. Other auctions are in Oregon, Idaho, Washington and the Dakotas. www.silverauctions.com ■