

## 2015 ARIZONA CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE TO DISPLAY FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S 1937 AC ROADSTER



Frank Lloyd Wright and his wife, Olgivanna, enjoy the 1937 AC sports car on the grounds of Taliesin West, Scottsdale, in 1948. (Photo courtesy of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation)

The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation has been an enthusiastic supporter of the efforts to bring together the class of his cars, and one of the special events for the 2015 Arizona Concours will be a tour for concours entrants to Taliesin West, the day after the concours. Buice said that he and his wife are excited about the tour since it will return the AC to familiar grounds. "It

Frank Lloyd Wright is widely acclaimed as the most influential American architect of the twentieth century. But he was also a dedicated auto enthusiast whose artistic eye influenced his choices of fine luxury and sporting vehicles. The second annual Arizona Concours d'Elegance, to be held on Sunday, January 11, 2015, will feature cars owned by Wright, including this rare piece of motoring history: a 1937 AC 16/80 "Ace" roadster that was owned and driven by Wright. The car will make its post-restoration debut at the event after being out of the public eye for more than 40 years.

A classic, upscale British sports car of the pre-war era, the AC will appear just as it did when owned by Wright, down to the signature Cherokee Red paint hue that the architect favored for nearly all of his cars. The AC has a strong Arizona connection, since it was used by Wright during winter stays at his Taliesin West home and architecture school in Scottsdale. He purchased the sports car in 1948 and immediately had it repainted Cherokee Red. Period photos

show Wright with his wife, Olgivanna, bedecked in sporty fabric helmets and goggles, enjoying the AC at Taliesin West.

David and Rochelle Buice of Dallas have owned the AC since 1974, and it has been undergoing a total restoration for the past two years. The car is fully documented as the AC used by the architect and owned by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation through 1969. David Buice said they have long been devotees of Wright's architectural achievements, as well as being British sports-car enthusiasts. "For the architecture, we're fans of his genius work," Buice said.

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

will be interesting to get the car out there, like a homecoming," Buice said. "We have purchased helmets and goggles to replicate the picture of Mr. and Mrs. Wright in that car."

Three other featured classes also are being organized for the 2015 Arizona Concours: pre-1965 competition Ferraris; classic American luxury brand Pierce-Arrow; and the cars of Carrozzeria Ghia, the Italian design house that celebrates its 100th anniversary during 2015. The Arizona Concours steering committee also has determined the full class list for the 2015 show and competition, with 17 specialty classes for entries ranging from antique and full classic to sports cars and exotics.

The Arizona Concours d'Elegance benefits Make-A-Wish® Arizona, the founding chapter of the national organization that grants wishes for children facing life-threatening medical conditions. To purchase tickets, enter a vehicle, or get more information about the 2015 Arizona Concours d'Elegance, visit [www.arizonaconcours.com](http://www.arizonaconcours.com). ■



## ARIZONA CONCOURS TICKETS AND VEHICLE ENTRIES

The Arizona Concours d'Elegance will again serve as the start of the famed January classic car auction week in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area, following a highly successful inaugural event.

This select display of exceptional vintage automobiles takes place on the manicured inner lawns of the historic Arizona Biltmore Resort, at 2400 E Missouri Avenue, just northeast of N 24th Street and E Camelback Road in Phoenix. The second annual event will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2015.

The 2015 Arizona Concours d'Elegance will include more than 20 judged classes. Well-known veteran concours judge John Carlson will again serve as chief judge, as he did for the inaugural event. Also returning for 2015 is Keith Martin, the charismatic publisher of *Sports Car Market* and *American Car Collector*, to serve as host and emcee.

To ensure a spacious and enjoyable concours experience at this dramatic location, the organizers are limiting the number of tickets that will be sold. Spectators are urged to purchase tickets early or risk missing this unique event. Tickets for the 2015 event are now on sale at the event website.

Owners and caretakers of exceptional vehicles are invited to apply for entry to the 2015 Arizona Concours by using the application form on the website. Vehicle entry is absolutely free. Simply click on Vehicle Submission, fill out the form, and attach one or more photos of the entry vehicle.

For tickets, vehicle entry or general information, visit [www.arizonaconcours.com](http://www.arizonaconcours.com). ■