

73rd Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance

Sunday, August 18, 2024



The 73rd Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance does not take place until August, but the process is already well underway. Collectors hoping to vie for the world's top automotive prize—Best of Show at Pebble Beach—applied by the first week of January, with the Selection Committee due to discuss their recommendations during February.

The event will showcase an expanded range of cars, from pioneering Packards and the Speedsters equated with that 125-year-old marque, to the supercars that raced in the BPR and FIA GT Series of the 1990s. A focus on Maserati and the Coachwork of Pietro Frua add an Italian accent, and Wedge-shaped Concepts & Prototypes offer a distinctly modern look.

PACKARD 125th ANNIVERSARY: Synonymous with American luxury for nearly six decades, from 1899 to 1958, fine Packards have taken Best of Show at Pebble Beach four times. The 125th anniversary of its founding features a special class for early Packards, from single-cylinder horseless carriages to the massive Dominant Six in 1915, with a curated display of models in the 1930

Packard Speedster Series, essentially factory hot rods based on a custom-built shortened chassis, in five body styles, including the quintessential boat-tail.

MASERATI: The Maserati brothers produced their first racing car in 1926, and their competition models (built through the early 1960s) became legendary, acclaimed worldwide by drivers and owners and well respected by archrivals such as Alfa Romeo and Ferrari. In 1948, under management of the Orsi family, Maserati started to produce non-racing sports cars, and GT cars emerged.

FRUA COACHWORK: Pietro Frua's work defined the golden age of creativity in Italian design and coachbuilding, from the rounded lines of the early 1950s, to the sleek squared-off shapes of the 1960s. Sometimes startling, but always tasteful, his designs were always inherently beautiful.

WEDGE-SHAPED CONCEPT CARS & PROTOTYPES: A few 1950s prototypes hinted at the form, but Wedge-shaped designs really came to the fore with concept cars of the 1960s, '70s and '80s. The featured class will focus on One-Off Wedge Concept Cars and Prototypes.

1990s BPR & FIA GT RACE CARS: Just as legendary sports cars such as the Jaguar E-type, Ferrari 250 GT and Shelby Cobra went from road to racecourse with few changes in the 1950s and '60s, the BPR Series sought to bring iconic supercars to the track in the mid-1990s—and it did just that. The McLaren F1, Ferrari F40, Bugatti EB110, Mercedes-Benz CLK GTR, and Porsche 911 GT1, as well as exotics like the Lotus Elise GT1 and Dodge Viper, all took part.

Speaking of the process being underway, it's never too early to book travel and lodging for Monterey Car Week and the Pebble Beach Concours—they start filling up the minute the prior event is complete. The week includes several high-profile collector auctions, vintage motoring events and much more. ■

