

Collector cars earn higher return than stocks and gold

It turns out the guy driving that 1967 Shelby GT500 as an enthusiast has the side benefit of being a smart investor. The Barrett-Jackson Auction Company reports that many of the top cars at auctions have performed better in value than the stock market and gold over the last 10 years.

"Though most people buy a collector car to enjoy, they have also proven to be one of the soundest investment vehicles in the global marketplace over the past 10 years," said Craig Jackson, Chairman and CEO of Barrett-Jackson. "It's rare that a hobby and someone's passion has the potential of being a great investment."

The *Barrett-Jackson mini-index* was created in 2003 and comprises seven cars that reflect the diversity of the collector car market, with European and US sports cars and US muscle cars spanning 1957 to 1970: the 1957 Thunderbird, 1967 Jaguar XKE, 1967 Shelby GT500, 1970 Camaro Z28, 1970 AAR 'Cuda, 1965 Austin Healy MK III and a 1967 Corvette 427/435.

According to data released in mid-October, the value of the cars in the *Barrett-Jackson mini-index* grew by a compounded annual growth rate of 16 percent from Q1 1998 to Q1 2008, a period that included economic and political upheaval stemming from major events ranging from the Invasion of Iraq, the DotCom bubble crash, and 9/11. During that same period, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) grew a compounded 5 percent annually while the S&P 500 Index grew 4 percent. The price of gold grew a compounded 11 percent in the same period.

"A financial analyst will tell you that every market has year-to-year fluctuations, but that the true measure is performance over time," said Steve Davis, President of Barrett-Jackson. "Collector cars are not only our consumers' passion but offer the potential of providing long-term value." ■

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