

Pebble Beach Concours... 57 years... 190 cars... \$200 million

Photos by Alan Grinberg and Joe Sage

The 18th fairway at the historic Pebble Beach Golf Links® is open 364 days a year. On day 365, one of golf's most scenic and challenging holes is transformed for the Pebble Beach Concours d'Élegance. The Concours debuted in 1950, a low-key affair with about 30 cars. Fifty-seven years later, the event has grown to exhibit almost 200 of the rarest, most valuable vehicles in existence.

Automotive entries in the Pebble Beach Concours are by invitation only. In fact, many collectors spend years and hundreds of thousands of dollars restoring a car in hopes of being chosen to participate.

From prewar classics to postwar treasures, the Concours assembles a stylish mix while highlighting certain marques, this year featuring Aston Martin and the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg (A-C-D) group. A historic hot rod class celebrated the 75th anniversary of the iconic '32 Ford, the "10-plus Club" focused on cars with displacement of 10 liters or more, and for the first time, a preservation class was added. About two dozen classes competed, with vehicles from 30 states and 12 countries.

Cars first compete by class, for excellence of restoration, mechanical condition and authenticity. Cars that achieve Best of Class then compete for Best of Show, evaluating styling, design and elegance.

Eight relatives of Cord founder E.L. Cord attended. *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno (a 2004 class winner) provided color commentary and awarded raffle prizes. Racing greats attending included Dan Gurney, Phil Hill, Parnelli Jones, Jochen Mass and Sir Stirling Moss. Thomas and Lamot DuPont displayed their prized machines.

The oldest car was an 1897 Henriod Duc Kellner Phaeton, brought from Sussex, England. The "Mormon Meteor," a streamlined 400-hp 1935 Duesenberg SJ that set speed and endurance records in the '30s, won Best in Show.

Concept cars included the Mercedes-Benz Ocean Drive, Maserati Granturismo, Chrysler Nassau, Dodge Demon, Jeep Trailhawk, Bentley Brooklands, Cadillac Cien, Lexus IS-F, Lexus LF-A, Lincoln MKR, Italdesign Mustang by Giugiaro, Spyker C12 Zagato and Callaway C16 Speedster.

The event has contributed more than \$10 million to charities through the years.

This event is of supreme importance to its participants, but is also a genuine crowd-pleaser. If you'd like to see a Concours, this is the one, so book now. For info, visit pebblebeachconcours.net

