



Driving beauty

View the best of luxury automobiles, from vintage icons to the classics of the future, at these exclusive Concours d'Élegance events

For car enthusiasts, there is nothing more exciting than a Concours d'Élegance, where guests can bring their own vintage cars, and exhibitors can debut new models and recount the extensive histories behind iconic vehicles and brands.

Above: industrialist Yohan Poonawalla's Bentley Mark VI which won an award in 2021

BLenheim Palace, UK
Salon Privé at Blenheim Palace, presented by Aviva, is an event that welcomes over 100 cars and motorcycles each year and offers something for all interests. From Edwardian era automobiles to some of the rarest grand tourers, as well as supercars and concepts for the future, this show does an amazing job of presenting a well-rounded and captivating sample of cars from all times and places.

With a Best of Show competition, a showcase of some of the finest brands in the luxury automotive industry and exceptional hospitality presented to all guests, there's much to appreciate about this show.

Around 30 luxury brands are usually present at this annual event, and for the 2022 show, some of the expected exhibitors will be Aston Martin, Audi, Bugatti, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Porsche

and Rolls-Royce, as well as many others. There is certainly a focus on European models; given the location of the show, though other brands will also be present. Car specialist brands such as ACH Classic and Evrrati will also be present, as well as other luxury brands in other industries. Champagne Pommery will host their own reception for guests, and goods will be on sale from luxury brands such as the Panama Hat Company, Geoffrey Parker, Piaget, Montblanc and Boodles.

During the 2021 Salon Privé, the Best in Show title for the Concours was awarded to a 1938 Mercedes-Benz 540 K Cabriolet A, part of the Pre-War Tourers class which had lined up in front of Blenheim Palace as part of the showcase. Some of the other class winners included the first



Triumph motor bicycle, a Jaguar low-drag Lightweight E-type, an ex-Ford France GT40 and a restored SS 100 3½ Litre. The Churchill Cup for Most Exceptional Design was awarded to a 1972 De Tomaso Mangusta, and an Aston Martin DB2 won in two categories, the Preservation Award and People's Choice. A new exhibit, 'The Red Collection' was presented on the Blenheim Palace cricket pitch, featuring a restored Ferrari 250 GTO as a centrepiece.

During last year's event, privateer racing driver David Piper was reunited with a car he raced extensively in the 1960s, a green

Top and right: Celebrating 17 consecutive years of the Concours d'Élegance in 2022, Salon Privé at Blenheim Palace offers a unique experience



Ferrari 250 GTO, regaling the crowd with many stories of his time with the car and his racing days. A matching red Ferrari was also present and visitors and exhibitors alike enjoyed taking photos of the iconic cars together.

2021 also marked the first year for rally cars as part of the show, so visitors to this year's show can look forward to another display of classic rally vehicles.

Salon Privé Concours d'Élegance will take place from

31 August to 1 September 2022 at Blenheim Palace in the UK, as the first event of the 2022 Salon Privé program.

Tickets can be purchased from their website. salonpriveconcours.com ►



Left and below: Cars on parade at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, in The Lodge and on the concept lawn on the Monterey Peninsula in California

PEBBLE BEACH, CALIFORNIA

As the flagship of Pebble Beach Automotive Week, this concours d'elegance is an important tradition spanning back over 70 years, beginning in 1950. Often considered to be the world's premier celebration of the automotive industry, the event draws guests and exhibitors from all around the world to watch as some of the finest historical cars are displayed on the 18th fairway of Pebble Beach Golf Links, all competing to be named Best of Show. In addition, new and futuristic car designs are exhibited with great anticipation.

2022's show will revolve around the centennial of Lincoln's luxury automobiles and 24 Hours of Le Mans, with many of their historical cars on display. A Talbot-Lago Grand Sport will be in attendance, the Alfa Romeo 8C, a classic touring car, the coachwork of Hermann Graber, historic hot rods, the Fiat Otto Vu and McFarlan models. With more of a focus on American cars, this event offers something different from other European model heavy shows. There will also be dining and social events throughout the Automotive Week, including a Sunday Show Field, restaurants at the Lodge and Club d'Elegance.

The history of this concours is long and interesting, starting in 1950 in tandem with the Pebble Beach Road Races. As a last minute addition to the program, it was intended to add a social element to the proceedings, and the two events were hosted at Pebble Beach side-by-side through to 1956, which saw an end to the race but continued the tradition of the concours. One of the most memorable aspects of the event is the Dawn Patrol, often referred to as the Don Patrol, as it was begun by Don Williams, who would gather at the entry to the field and welcome the cars as they arrived. Don and his friends were often

heard discussing the merits of each entry into the concours as they drove past, speculating on which cars would win awards later in the day.

The Best of Show moment in the concours is one of the most anticipated parts of the day at Pebble Beach, and for good reason. The entrants all keep fingers crossed that this year, they may take home the coveted trophy, which is awarded by judges appointed from professionals in the industry, including historical racing legends, car designers and others. The winner of the 2021 Best of Show title was a 1938 Mercedes-Benz 540K Autobahn Kurier, which was shown by The Keller Collection at The Pyramids, and is remarkably similar to the model which won the 2021 Best of Show at Salon Privé. The car is the only remaining model still in existence and sporting its original equipment, making it a truly spectacular choice for Best of Show.

The 71st Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance will take place in Pebble Beach, California on August 21 2022. Tickets can be purchased from their website. pebblebeachconcours.net ■

