

3rd Annual Westlake Village Concours

Story // Mike Grudt+ Photos // Greg Grudt



The 3rd Annual Westlake Village Concours d'Elegance was held recently on a beautiful unseasonably warm Sunday afternoon. I'm not sure what happened to "El Nino", maybe all of the Doppler 7000 and other high tech weather forecasting equipment leaves some room for improvement. Whatever the case may be I'm not complaining about t-shirt weather in sunny So. Cal. as parts of the country shovel snow.



This year the show was again held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Westlake Village in a different private section on the property. We enjoyed a picture perfect setting for the English tea garden theme honoring the Golden Age of Motoring. As we entered the vine draped archway into the secluded area a large pagoda surrounded by a small lake (or large pond) with connecting footbridges stood out. The entire area was surrounded by various species of trees and plants and a stand of bamboo easily fifteen feet tall. In addition there were huge randomly spaced boulders (not sure at what point a rock becomes a boulder, they were large) that were sourced from the River Kwai in Thailand. It was a very unique and private setting and unlike any other car event I have attended. This show also seems to attract many who normally would not attend a car show. It is always great to meet

others with somewhat diverse interests. Cars seem to always bring people together in one way or another.

Since this is not a large show, we always know the limited number of entrants will be very special or rare examples of motoring classics. Let's start with one of my favorite cars at the show, a perfect example of a 1961 Aston Martin DB4 GT Zagato owned by a prominent local collector. Of the nineteen total examples built this one is even more unique since it is one of only six built in left hand drive and one of only two with hood scoops. Another favorite was the 1916 Stutz Model 4C Bearcat Roadster. The Bearcat was one of the first true roadsters that was stripped down to the bare minimum. This was a winning design back in the day and was based on one of the first



Indianapolis 500 race cars. One of the more unique vehicles was the 1913 Locomobile Model M-48 Series 3 (no it was not the first 3 Series BMW). The company started out building steam powered cars and later switched to internal combustion engines. These models were for the very affluent and unfortunately the Great Depression ended their production.



A few other cars of note were a 1953 Cadillac Series 62 Coupe by Ghia (once owned by Rita Hayworth), a 1951 Talbot-Lago T26 Grand Sport Cabriolet (a one of a kind example and the only Talbot bodied by an Italian coachbuilder), 1928 Packard 443 Eight Dietrich Coupe (shown at the 2015 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance) and a 1933 Hispano-Suiza J12 Cabriolet (with a 690cu inch engine machined from a single 700lb billet...wow). Of course everybody's friend Gary Wales was in attendance with his latest La Bestioni creation. I always marvel at his craftsmanship especially knowing it was built in his garage and not in a huge commercial facility. I've been to his garage and I still find it hard to believe what he is able to accomplish.

Also at the event were some Moorpark College representatives with a few birds of prey including a falcon, an owl and some other birds. They were amazing to view close up and always seemed to be on the alert. Not your everyday car event attendees. It was just another great car day in sunny So. Cal. As always please enjoy my son Greg's photos and other car pictures on his site.