

California Dream Cars

ROLEX HONORS AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY IN MONTEREY AND PEBBLE BEACH

By Roberta Naas

Rolex has long sponsored or timed some of the most legendary car races. From the Rolex 24 AT Daytona and 24 Hours of Le Mans to the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion in Pebble Beach, California, Rolex understand precision, excellence and luxury.

In the paddocks and the Driver's Club at the recent Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, where the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion took place during an exhilarating classic car weekend in Monterey, I witnessed a two-day race brings together more than 550 top cars.

These were owned and driven by many celebrity-status legends themselves, including Le Mans and Formula driver Derek Bell, Sir Stirling Moss, Martin Brundle, and even Brian Johnson, lead singer of AC/DC.

The cars that converged on the famous track in August this year came from fourteen different countries and twenty-seven states. Some of the finest historic cars in the world raced around the track, including thirteen Ferrari GTO class cars built between 1962 and 1964— with some valued at almost \$30 million each.

Some of the finest historic cars in the world raced around the track, including Ford Mustangs and thirteen Ferrari GTO class cars built between 1962 and 1964.



SPONSORSHIPS

The 2.238-mile track -- well known by any who play video auto racing games -- is legendary for its 300-foot elevation changes, The Corkscrew (its name says it all) and its eleven turns.

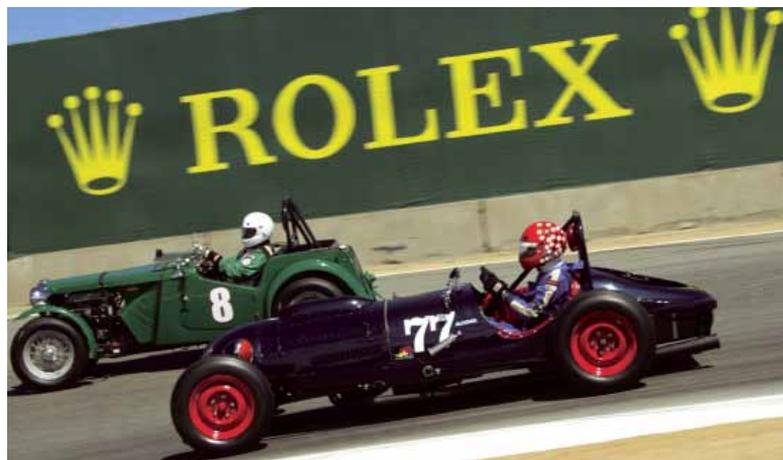
For a car lover like me, it was incredible to be at the top of The Corkscrew and watch the rare muscle cars race around the corner, engines roaring, or to be at the starting line when the dozen-plus Jaguar E-Types zoomed onto the track. Rolex signage was everywhere and celebrity book signings were a highlight. Drivers walked easily among visitors and it was a great wonder to interact with so many legends in racing.

Pebble Beach

The Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion shared the weekend with the even more famous (is that possible?) Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance. This year's 61st such event-- in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the automobile -- was held as always on the famed eighteenth fairway of Pebble



Above: Brian Johnson, lead singer of AC/DC, raced at the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion, which featured classic cars and plenty of alluring wrist-wear.



“

the affair gathers
hundreds of collectors and their
prized cars

”

Beach Golf Links, with the feature highlight being the Rolex Winner's Circle. Not just any car owner can exhibit at the Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance. One must be invited to exhibit, and the affair gathers hundreds of the world's most prized collector cars. Magnificently restored and preserved automobiles from the turn of the century and throughout the decades come together into one event. I spent hours on the Concours enjoying the sights – wooden wheels of yesteryear in cars dating back to 1914, hood ornaments that leave one marveling at their very intricate detailing and intake manifolds and outer accents finished in golden hues.

From Duesenbergs to Stutz's (which celebrates its 100-year anniversary), Edwardian-era Rolls-Royce's, Packard's and the finest Ferrari 250 GTO's (these 1962-1964 autos marked the culmination of Enzo Ferrari's efforts), the Concours d' Elegance recalls the glamour and growth that classic automobiles and fine racing vehicles brought to reality.

This year's Best of Show Winner: An alluring 1934 Voisin C-25 Aerodyne owned by Peter Mullin and an entry in the 1932-1937 European Classic category. My favorites included a couple of the American classics, including a light yellow 1934 Packard and a couple of stunning Stutz's. C

Brian Johnson suits up to race his Lola-T-70.
Below is

