

Viva Wynn

LAS VEGAS CONCOURS

* OCTOBER 28 - 30, 2023 *

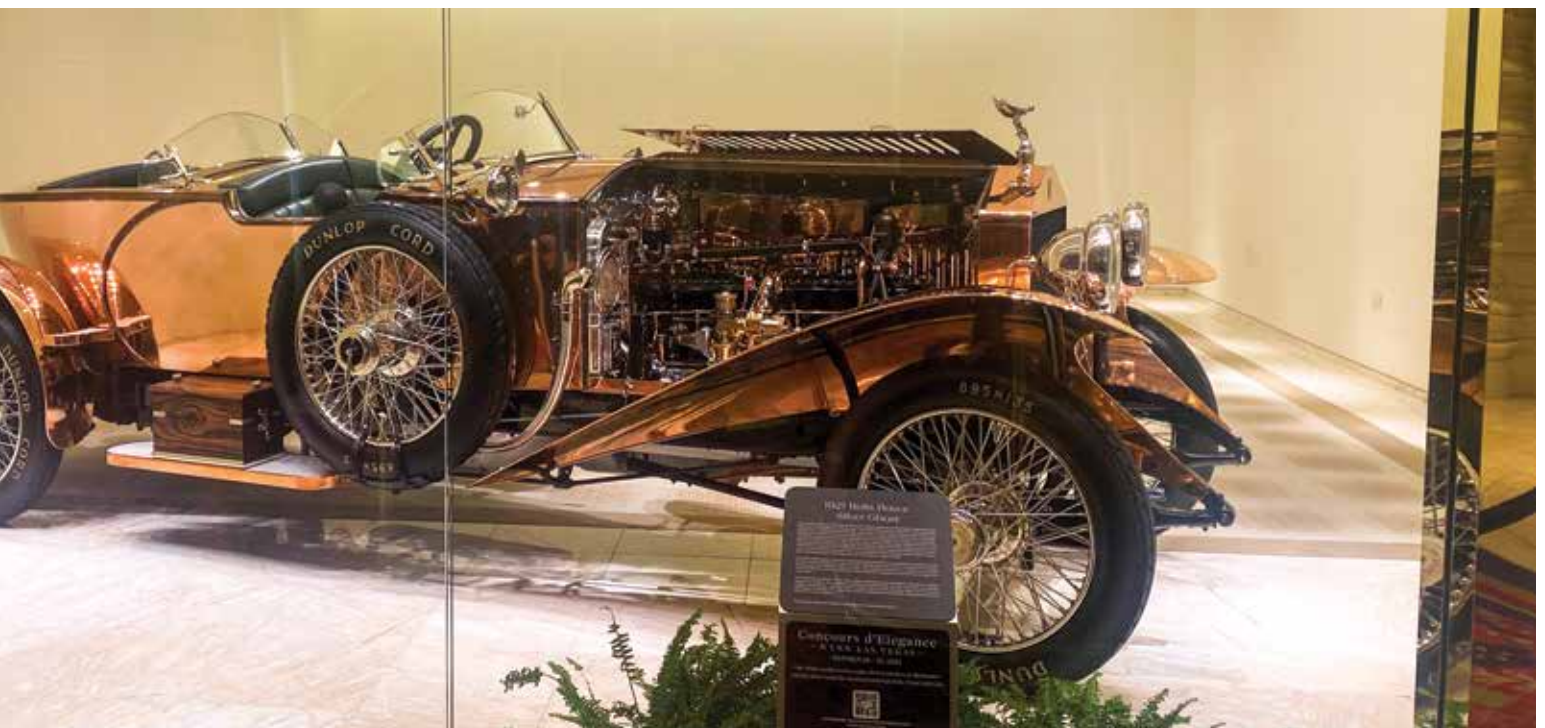
BY JOHN MILLIKEN

In 2019, Stuart Sobek realized his dream of bringing a premier concours to his beloved adopted city of Las Vegas, Nevada. His first effort took place in 2019, held the last weekend of October at the gorgeous Dragon Ridge Golf Club, just southeast of Las Vegas. Due to COVID-19, the show was cancelled in 2020 but revived in 2021 at a new destination, the recently built Las Vegas Ball Park in the Summerland suburb, just west of city. Both events were well organized and preceded by a lavish gala the Friday evening prior to the concours.

As the show evolved, Stuart realized the importance of good judging to attract the owners and exhibitors of fine cars. At the first event he engaged the experience of Chief Judge John Carlson who introduced the ICJAG (International Chief Judge Advisory Group) standardized judging rules that we use at our annual San Marino Motor Classic. However, despite these efforts, there seemed to be a dearth of spectators at both events. Las Vegas would seem an obvious place for a glitzy concours. After all, there was a hotel and casino that advertised its 20 Duesenberg collection and, of course, the well-known showman Wayne Newton ("Mr. Las Vegas") was also the famous owner of a Duesenberg. But the city is also remote and some distance from some of the large automobile collections on the west >



*Photos from top:
The Wynn Las Vegas served as the location for the Las Vegas Concours d'Elegance; 1921 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Brockman Speedster, the National Automobile Museum.*



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coast making it difficult to attract many owners willing to exhibit their cars.

Nevertheless, Stuart's efforts on his first two events were not lost and did receive some attention from Wynn Resorts properties who recognized the great potential in such an event. Stuart was very interested in expanding the size and quality of the show for 2022, and early in the year a partnership with Wynn Resorts was realized, along with sizable capital support.

Wynn Resorts went full force into the project. Weeks prior to the October 28th through 30th event, Wynn displayed select magnificent cars from well-known collectors and museums throughout the resort, and, most significantly, offered >





Photos clockwise from top left: Opening Night Gala at the XS Nightclub at The Wynn Hotel; The expansive show field with the Las Vegas skyline in the background; 1933 Duesenberg Model SJ Rollston Torpedo Sedan, The Nethercutt Collection; 1933 Duesenberg Model J Convertible Coupe by Murphy, The Petersen Automotive Museum.

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up their famed golf course, the only course located directly on the strip, as the venue for the concours display of cars. Once again, a very elegant Friday evening gala was staged, this time at the luxurious XS Nightclub at the adjacent Encore Hotel (also a Wynn property) and was very well attended. The opulent setting was complemented with food stations, champagne and cocktails.

Judging began Saturday morning on the field near a huge outdoor ➤

Photos clockwise from top right: The Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum's 1927 Duesenberg Model X Speedster by McFarlan; 1938 Cadillac Series 75 Sedan by Fleetwood, Colin S. Christie; 1929 Duesenberg Model J Judkins Coupe; 1937 Delahaye 145 Coupe by Chapron, The Mullin Automotive Museum; The Petersen Automotive Museum's 1937 Delage D-8 Aerosport Coupe by LeTourneur & Marchand.





pavilion that featured an ongoing buffet throughout the day. Jay Leno served as Master of Ceremonies for the kickoff as well as Grand Master of the cavalcade of collector cars to tour down the famous Strip on Sunday morning. Fifteen classes attracted 200 cars, with roughly 120 of those being judged. A selection of modern supercars was present to attract enthusiasts new to the hobby, among them the best from Bugatti, Rolls-Royce, Bentley, McClaren and Lamborghini.

There were a number of Southern California Region members showing their cars including Gary and Amy Marchetti and their 1931 Nash, Colin Christie with his 1938 Cadillac, Peter Hartmann and his 1938 Packard and cars from the Petersen Automotive Museum, the Mullin Automotive Museum and the Nethercutt Collection. "Best of" awards were presented to a 1951 Delahaye 235 Cabriolet by Saoutchik from the Mullin Automotive Museum (Post-War) and the 1933 Duesenberg SJ Rollston Torpedo, better known as the Twenty Grand Duesenberg from the Nethercutt Collection (Pre-War). One additional award of note was the Helene Award for a venue, presented to the Petersen Automotive Museum.

This was a wonderful, well attended and very high-end event and a great accomplishment by Stuart Sobek. It has all the components of a world-class concours: a wide range of collector cars, qualified judges and participation by a number of significant collections. On top of all of that, next year promises to be an even grander event. Wynn Resorts will return as a sponsor, and a new sponsor, Formula One, joins to add a racing perspective to the weekend. The actual concours is scheduled for November 11, 2023, just one week prior to the actual Formula One race, also scheduled in Las Vegas next year. ●



Photos this page from top: Gary Marchetti with his 1931 Nash 887 Sedan; Peter Hartmann's 1938 Packard 1607 Formal Sedan; Best of Show Postwar, the Mullin Delahaye (nc).





Photos this page from top: The Petersen Automotive Museum's 1929 duPont Model G Speedster by Merrimac; Best of Show Prewar, The Nethercutt Duesenberg.