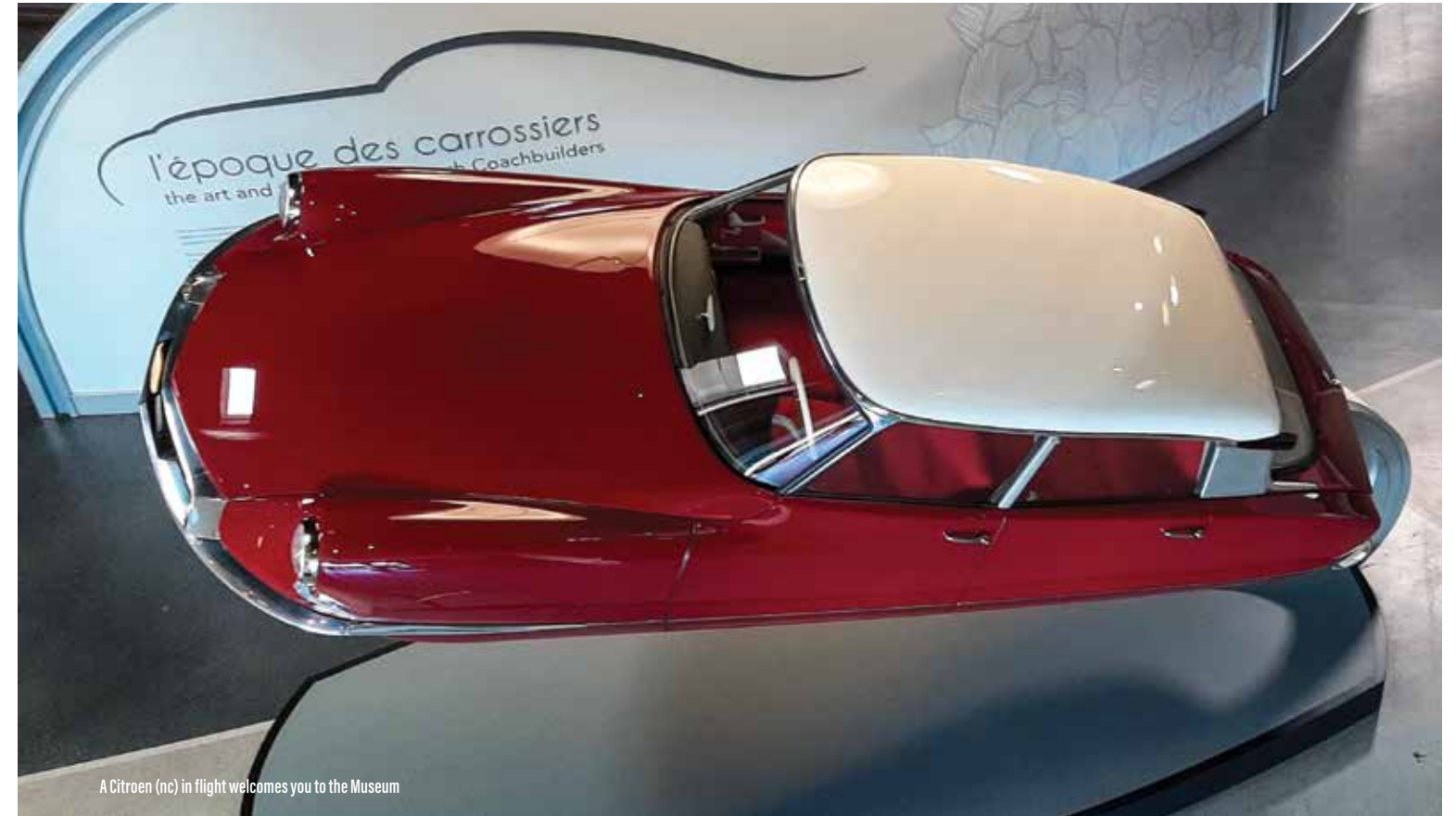


# THE MULLIN AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM TOUR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022 • OXNARD, CALIFORNIA



1937 Talbot-Lago T-150-C-S Teardrop Coupe by Figoni & Falaschi



A Citroën (nc) in flight welcomes you to the Museum

By Ron Verschoor

Photos by Yvonne deBeixedon and Ron Verschoor

The Southern California Region is blessed with a number of impressive automotive collections within its geographic boundaries and 2022 will be remembered as the year we visited three of the best. Earlier this year in April, we toured both the Nethercutt Collection and Museum in Sylmar and coming up in November as part of our annual membership meeting is a visit to the Lyon Family Collection in Coto de Caza. On Saturday, October 1, a group of approximately 30 visited the Mullin Automotive Museum in Oxnard.

Peter Mullin has always been gracious about hosting our group at the various locations housing the cars in his collection. Beyond the Museum in Oxnard, a few years ago we visited the West Los Angeles building that contained cars from the early 1900s and in 2007, a very large group enjoyed the opportunity to visit his home in Brentwood on the occasion of the national CCA annual meeting.

The Oxnard location was originally the home of the Otis Chandler Collection but was completely renovated when acquired by Peter Mullin. The Collection is vast and goes far beyond the



This image of the Schlumpf Collection shows two Cord 810-812 sedans, left row bottom and top



1934 Voisin C27 Aerosport

automobiles for which it is most famous. Carriages, models, paintings, photographs, tapestries, sculpture, Lalique crystal, furniture, jewelry and historical artifacts are also displayed here, celebrating French artistry from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s.

It is a bit overwhelming to absorb everything on display and a visit to the Museum's website, either before or after a visit, will certainly enhance the experience. The website is an excellent source of information for the collection and 71 of the cars are detailed with a historical profile, technical specifications and a downloadable PDF available for each.

Almost all of the automobiles are French spanning Classic marques of Bucciali, Bugatti, Delage, Delahaye, Delauney-Belleville, Farman, Hispano-Suiza, Peugeot, Renault, Talbot, Talbot-Lago and Voisin. Non-classic marques include Citroen, G.A.R. Lorraine-Dietrich, Panhard & Levassor, Richard-Braiser, Tracta and the non-French Auto Union and Tatra.

Bugatti is the most prevalent marque and the collection spans contributions made by various family members including those of Ettore and Jean (automobiles), Carlo (furniture) and Rembrandt (sculpture). This is the largest private collection of Bugatti automobiles and just a few of the most significant examples include the Type 22 "Lake" car, Type 35C and 37A Grand Prix models and the full range of factory body styles on the Type 57 chassis (Ventoux, Galiber, Stelvio, and the very limited production Atalante, Aravis and Atlantic), plus examples produced by outside coachbuilders.

Rare by normal automotive standards, but plentiful at the Museum are some of the most spectacular creations by Delage, Delahaye, Hispano-Suiza and Voisin. Coachwork is understandably French with stunning designs by Chapron, Figoni, Figoni & Falaschi, Kellner, Pourtout, Saoutchik and Vanvooren complementing the engineering genius of the aforementioned marques. It is interesting to note that the peak of automotive design came about during the Depression and the numerous challenges of those years. Perhaps these designs served as an escape from the austerity of day-to-day European life during the mid- to late-1930s.

The Museum setting replicates the Paris Auto Show at the Grand Palais with overhead ▶



clockwise from bottom left: 1934 Voisin C27 Roadster by Figoni • 1938 Delahaye 135M Cabriolet by Figoni & Falaschi with Grand Prix race cars and Citroens above • 1939 Bugatti Type 57C Atalante • 1934 Voisin C-25 Aerodyne • The Art Deco interior of the Mullin Automotive Museum is the ideal backdrop for these French automotive masterpieces • 1939 Bugatti Type 57C Aravis.



The famous Lake Bugatti, a 1925 Type 22 Brescia



Automotive sculpture depicting some of the most desirable automobiles in the collection



Bugatti Type 37A leads a row of historic race cars on the upper level of the Museum



Stunning design for the Type 64 Bugatti chassis with its styling buck behind it

signage listing marques and coachbuilders and wall murals, tapestries and artwork depicting the cars carefully positioned within the 47,000-square-foot space. The back wall tells the story of the Schlump Collection with separate galleries dedicated to artwork, furniture and the rescued Bugatti Lake Car. The second level provides an unobstructed view of the main floor salon with exhibit space devoted to Grand Prix competition and the Bugatti Lounge filled with streamlined furnishings.

The Mullin Automotive Museum is located at 1421 Emerson Avenue in Oxnard and is open Fridays and Saturdays, but an admission ticket must be reserved in advance. As mentioned, the website ([www.mullinautomotivemuseum.com](http://www.mullinautomotivemuseum.com)) warrants exploration in advance of your visit in order to fully appreciate the automobiles and artifacts on display. The cars on display rotate and are often on loan to museums or entered in concours around the world, so check in advance if you plan to see a specific car.

C'est Magnifique! ●



1931 Bugatti Type 54 Roadster by O. Uhlik