

The Best of Show award at the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance in 2019 went to the 1931 Bentley 8 Litre Gurney Nutting Sports Tourer of Sir Michael Kadoorie of Hong Kong, founder of The Quail, and Peninsula Classics Best of the Best award. Tom O'Neal/©Rolex/Tom O'Neal

View 65 Images

Bentley celebrates 100 years by taking the world's most prestigious concours.

The Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance is the world's most prestigious and best known concours event by some margin, having grown out of the post-war Pebble Beach races on the Monterey Peninsula, and since then it has created its very own ecosystem in the form of Monterey Car Week.

Last Sunday, August 18, 2019 saw 216 classic cars from 17 countries and 31 states

assembled on the 17th and 18th holes of the Pebble Beach Golf Course for the 69th annual Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, and not surprisingly, Bentley triumphed in its centenary year, with a 1931 Bentley 8 Litre Gurney Nutting Sports Tourer, owned by Sir Michael Kadoorie of Hong Kong, taking out the Best of Show award.



The winner of Best Of Show at the Pebble Beach Concours D'Elegance was this 1931 Bentley 8 Litre Gurney Nutting Sports Tourer, owned by The Hon. Michael Kadoorie of Hong Kong. To m O'Neal/©Rolex/Tom O'Neal

"The Centennial of Bentley may have played a role in this award," Kadoorie said, "but the 8 Litre is the ultimate W. O. Bentley–era automobile. This is the car that represents Bentley at its finest, and I have been very fortunate to have a car that has this elegance and finish, and that the Pebble Beach Concours feels is worthy."

Sir Michael hopes and imagines W. O. Bentley was looking down on the 18th fairway at Pebble Beach, feeling proud of his accomplishment and his company's centennial celebration. "This is a high I have not known before," he said.

The Best of Show award contenders come from the class winners (listed below), and those cars were distilled down to four contenders for the world's best known award, though there is some irony that the man whose car won the award, Sir Michael Kadoorie, is the co-founder of The Quail, a motorsport Gathering , which is held in Monterey on the Friday prior to the Pebble Beach Concours, and the Peninsula Classics Best-of-the-Best Award, which is in effect fast becoming the defacto world concours championship.

Sir Michael is now in the position to win the award he founded, as a win in Pebble Beach makes him one of the eight entrants in the Peninsula Classics Best of the Best award next February in Paris.





1939 Bentley Vanden Plas Sonar Hooker / NewAtlas.com

and this golden 1939 Bentley Vanden Plas another picture of elegance and beauty.



1936 Mercedes-Benz 540K Erdmann and Rossi Special Roadster



From the Keller Collection comes this 1936 Mercedes-Benz 540K Erdmann and Rossi Special Cabriolet which won the Mercedes-Benz Prewar class in Pebble Beach, and was one of the four cars from which the Best of Show was chosen in 2019 Somer Hooker / NewAtlas.com

Pebble Beach is one place where, at least sometimes, you can judge a book by its cover. Sometimes it is possible to have both brawn and beauty and this Kompressor (supercharged)

5.4 liter straight-eight 1936 Mercedes-Benz 540K Erdmann and Rossi Special Roadster is a prime example.

The car nearly pulled off another Keller family win at Pebble Beach. Originally curated by Arturo Keller, the Keller Automobile Collection is now a family affair and encompasses a variety of marques and countries of manufacture. Its size and breadth is astonishing, and Arturo Keller has long been one of the recognized mega car collectors, in the same category as Ralph Lauren, Rob Walton, John Mozart, Fred Simeone, Peter Mullin, Miles Collier, Chip Connor, Evert Louwman, Larry Auriana, Albert Spiess, the Wangs and the McCaws. Within the Keller Collection is a collection of Mercedes-Benz, which is second to only one - the Mercedes-Benz factory museum in Stuttgart.

Located on the family's 600 acre property in Petaluma, California, the Keller Collection at the Pyramids is a private collection housed among the family wineries. The Kellers have been regular Pebble Beach Concours contestant since the very beginnings of the event, when contestants drove in and put down a rug and picnic basket on the lawns. The family has also been regularly challenging for “Best of Show” for half a century, winning in 1986 with a 1936 Mercedes-Benz 500K Special Roadster and 2001 with a 1930 Mercedes SSL that was also bodied by Erdmann & Rossi.

If you look back across the major Concours events, the Keller name regularly crops up in the winner’s circle, most recently when the Collection’s Autobahn-Kurier took out Best-of-Show at Amelia Island earlier this year . The Autobahn-Kurier is a special built specifically for Germany’s then-new high-speed autobahn system, and like the family's winning car from 1986, it runs the Mercedes-Benz Kompressor (supercharged) straight-eight, though in 5.4 liter guise. There's a great story on the Keller family at Haute Living magazine .

The 1937 Delahaye 145 Chapron





The winner of the 1908 New York to Paris "Great Race"



The Hot Rod Cover Class

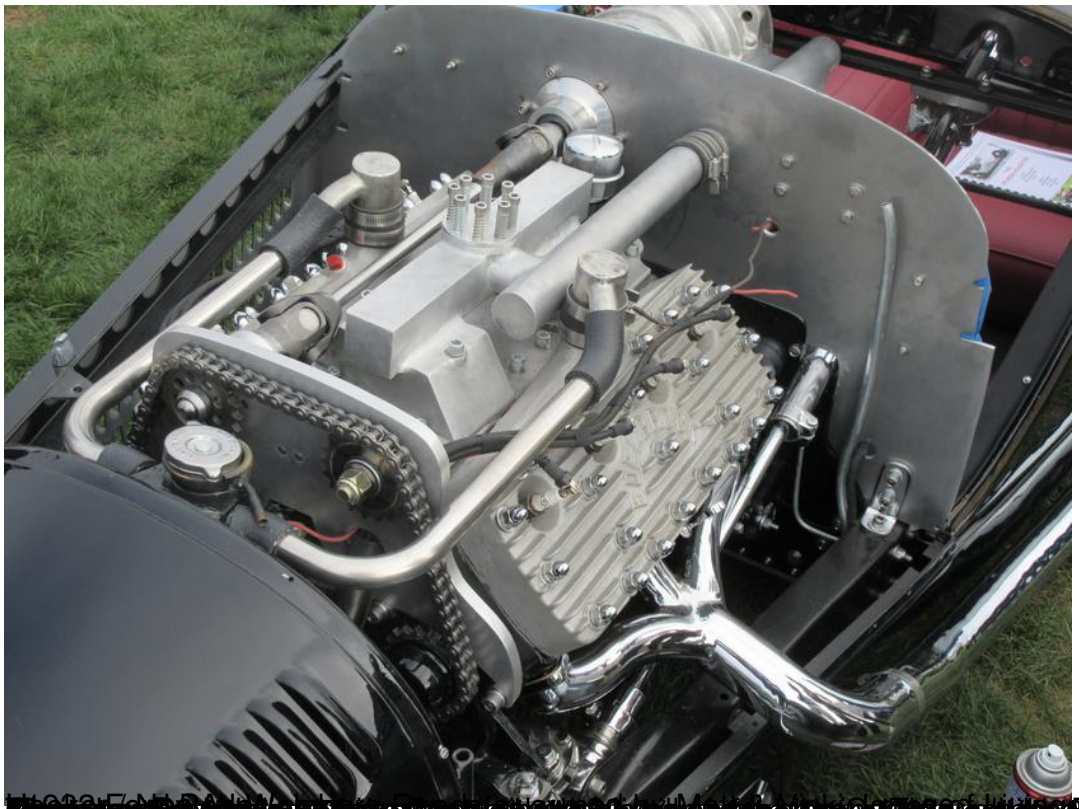
Another example of the inclusiveness of all aspects of automotive culture by the Pebble Beach organisation was the appearance of the Hot Rod cover car class. The Hot Rod, like the chopper, is a distinctly American art form, and framing a class to bring together some of the most iconic hot rods of all time worked a treat. It is testament to the deep thought that goes into framing each new edition of the Pebble Beach Concours D'Elegance. The elegance is more than skin deep.





1927 Ford Ed Roth Roadster "The Outlaw" Sonnet Hooker / NewAtlas.com

Some of the other hot rods on show in the class included



Best Of Show
1931 Bentley 8 Litre Gurney Nutting Sports Tourer

The Hon. Michael Kadoorie, Hong Kong

Best Of Show Nominees
1938 Talbot-Lago T150C-SS Figoni & Falaschi Teardrop Cabriolet

Richard & Melanie Lundquist, Palos Verdes Estates, California

1936 Mercedes-Benz 540K Erdmann & Rossi Special Cabriolet

The Keller Collection at the Pyramids, Petaluma, California

1962 Aston Martin DB4GT Zagato Coupé

David F. MacNeil, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Elegance Award Winners
Gwenn Graham Most Elegant Convertible

1938 Talbot-Lago T150C-SS Figoni & Falaschi Teardrop Cabriolet

Richard & Melanie Lundquist, Palos Verdes Estates, California

J. B. & Dorothy Nethercutt Most Elegant Closed Car

1950 Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 Ghia Supergioiello Coupé

Jonathan & Wendy Segal, San Diego, California

Jules Heumann Most Elegant Open Car

1929 Rolls-Royce Phantom I Brewster York Roadster

Lehrman Collection, Palm Beach, Florida

Strother MacMinn Most Elegant Sports Car

1956 Ferrari 250 GT Zagato Berlinetta Speciale

David & Ginny Sydorick, Beverly Hills, California

Special Award Winners
Alec Ulmann Trophy

1929 Hispano-Suiza H6C Saoutchik Cabriolet

Charles & Karen Nearburg, Dallas, Texas

Ansel Adams Award

1910 Marmon 32 Five Passenger Touring

Mike & Sharon Silvera, Minden, Nevada

Presented by Matthew Adams, grandson of Ansell Adams

ArtCenter College of Design Award

1967 Ferrari 412 P Coupe

MJJV Cars, Rye, New York

Briggs Cunningham Trophy

1932 Maserati V4 Zagato Spider

Lawrence Auriana, Greenwich, Connecticut

Center for Automotive Research at Stanford (CARS) Award

1921 Bentley 3 Litre Harrison Open Two Seater Sports

Private Collection, Switzerland

Chairman's Trophy

1968 Howmet TX Coupe

Andreas Mohringer, Salzburg, Austria

Charles A. Chayne Trophy

1925 Lancia Lambda 5th Series Torpedo

Stanley & Merle Bauer, Beverly Hills, California

Classic Car Club of America Trophy

1930 Duesenberg J Murphy Disappearing Top Roadster

Paul & Cheryl Petrovich, Pebble Beach, California

Dean Batchelor Trophy

1932 Ford Bob Morris Roadster

Bruce Meyer, Beverly Hills, California

Elegance in Motion Trophy

1937 Horch 853 Gliser Sport Cabriolet

Valerie & Aaron Weiss, San Marino, California

Enzo Ferrari Trophy

1954 Ferrari 735 S Monza Scaglietti Spyder

Thomas Peck, Huntington Beach, California

FIVA Postwar Trophy

1965 Aston Martin DB5 Vantage Coupé

William & Christopher Sharples, New York, New York

FIVA Prewar Trophy

1907 Renault XB Labourdette Transformable Landaulet

Steve & Marilee Hamilton, Washoe Valley, Nevada

The French Cup

1950 Talbot-Lago T26 Grand Sport Rocco Motto Barchetta

Ralph & Marion Stadler, Meggen, Switzerland

Gran Turismo Trophy

1931 Alfa Romeo 8C 2300 Zagato Spider

Jonathan Feiber and Heather Buhr, Atherton, California

Lincoln Trophy

1941 Lincoln Continental Brunn Town Car

Marshall Miller, Kansas City, Missouri

Lorin Tryon Trophy

Bob Cole

Bob Cole, the fellow who oversaw the set up of the new track at LKaguna Seca

Lucius Beebe Trophy

1937 Rolls-Royce Phantom III Inskip Special Henley Coupé

Class Winners

Class A-1: American Antique

1910 Marmon 32 Five Passenger Touring

Mike & Sharon Silvera, Minden, Nevada

Class A-2: European Antique

1907 Napier 60 HP Roi des Belges

Louwman Museum, The Hague, The Netherlands

Class B: Thomas Flyer (Exhibit Only)

1907 Thomas Flyer 35 New York to Paris Race Car

National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection), Reno, Nevada

Class C-1: American Classic Open

1936 Cadillac Series 90 Fleetwood Convertible Coupe

John D. Groendyke, Enid, Oklahoma

Class C-2: American Classic Closed

1933 Packard 1006 Twelve Dietrich Stationary Coupe

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California

Class D: Packard Open

1934 Packard 1108 Twelve Dietrich Convertible Sedan

Ralph Marano, Westfield, New Jersey

Class F-1: Bentley Centennial 3 Litre

1927 Bentley 3 Litre Speed Model Vanden Plas Open Sports

Private Collection, England

Class F-2: Bentley Centennial 4 1/2 Litre

1930 Bentley 4 1/2 Litre Supercharged Vanden Plas Open Sports

Private Collection, Switzerland

Class F-3: Bentley Centennial 6 1/2 Litre

1929 Bentley Speed Six H. J. Mulliner Open Two Seater Sports

Private Collection, Switzerland

Class F-4: Bentley Centennial 8 Litre

1931 Bentley 8 Litre Gurney Nutting Sports Tourer

The Hon. Sir Michael Kadoorie, Hong Kong

Class F-5: Bentley Centennial Derby

1939 Bentley 4 1/4 Litre Vanvooren Drophead Coupe

Michel Doret, Lasne, Belgium

Class F-6: Bentley Centennial Postwar

1952 Bentley R-Type Continental Mulliner Sports Saloon

Anne Brockinton Lee / Robert M. Lee Automobile Collection, Reno, Nevada

Class G: Duesenberg

1930 Duesenberg J Murphy Disappearing Top Roadster

Paul & Cheryl Petrovich, Pebble Beach, California

Class H: Rolls-Royce Prewar

1937 Rolls-Royce Phantom III Inskip Special Henley Coupe

Lord Bamford, United Kingdom

Class I: Mercedes-Benz Prewar

1936 Mercedes-Benz 540K Erdmann and Rossi Special Cabriolet

The Keller Collection at The Pyramids, Petaluma, California

Class J-1: European Classic Open

1938 Talbot-Lago T150C-SS Figoni and Falaschi Teardrop Cabriolet

Richard & Melanie Lundquist, Palos Verdes Estates, California

Class J-2: European Classic Closed

1937 Delahaye 145 Chapron Coupe

Merle & Peter Mullin, Los Angeles, California

Class K-1: Bugatti Type 57

1937 Bugatti Type 57SC Atalante

Private Collection, New York

Class K-2: Bugatti Type 59

Exhibit Only

Class L-1: Prewar Preservation

1907 Renault XB Labourdette Transformable Landaulet

Steve & Marilee Hamilton, Washoe Valley, Nevada

Class L-2: Postwar Preservation

1965 Aston Martin DB5 Vantage Coupe

William & Christopher Sharples, New York, New York

Class M-1: Ferrari Grand Touring

1960 Ferrari 250 GT Scaglietti Spyder California

Lee & Joan Herrington / The Herrington Collection, Bow, New Hampshire

Class M-2: Ferrari Competition

1955 Ferrari 750 Monza Scaglietti Spyder

Patrick & Carolyn Ottis, Berkeley, California

Class N: Lamborghini Miura

1968 Lamborghini Miura SV Coupe

Lamborghini Polo Storico Private Owner, Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy

Class O-1: Postwar Sports

1960 Porsche Carrera Abarth GTL Viarenzo and Filliponi Coupe

Robert Ingram / The Ingram Collection, Durham, North Carolina

Class O-2: Postwar Touring

1950 Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 Ghia Supergioiello Coupe

Jonathan & Wendy Segal, San Diego, California

Class P-1: Zagato Centennial Prewar

1932 Maserati V4 Zagato Spider

Lawrence Auriana, Greenwich, Connecticut

Class P-2: Zagato Centennial Postwar

1962 Aston Martin DB4GT Zagato Coupe

David F. MacNeil, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Class R: Historic Hot Rod Cover Cars

1922 Ford Norm Grabowski "Kookie Kar" Roadster Pickup

Ross & Beth Myers / m,3 Dog Garage, Bayertown, Pennsylvania

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