

# CARLIFE

## Pebble Beach

### Tour d'Elegance

You can see almost all the cars that will be on the lawn at Pebble on Aug. 14, the Thursday before next year's concours, when they line up for the Tour d'Elegance, a day-long drive that wends and winds its way all over the peninsula. Why would an owner want to run his car hard on Thursday before the big event? Because it might do 'em some good: If two cars are neck and neck for a Sunday class win or Best in Show, the one that participated in the tour will get the nod. And if they both ran the tour, well, we guess the judges just arm-wrestle or something. Anyway, the cars line up at 7 a.m. next to Collins Field uphill from The Lodge and remain there until they depart at 8 for the roughly 90-mile tour. Then, from about 11 a.m.-2 p.m., they're all parked in downtown Carmel while the drivers have lunch. The tour returns to Pebble by about 2:30. See them all for free!

### Concours on the Avenue

This is the best free event of the entire week, like a mini-Pebble on Ocean Avenue in downtown Carmel. The judges even wear blue blazers and those flat straw hats called boaters, like the 1910 Fruitgum Company wore. Look for 175 cool cars from 1940 through 1973, with Porsches and Ferraris through 1989. It goes from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the big day.

### Concorso Italiano

A great event you'll have to pay to attend (but c'mon, it supports charities!). Besides, Concorso organizes some sort of parade in downtown Monterey. Next year's happenings have been moved from their traditional date the Friday before the concours to Saturday, Aug. 16. The Concorso is also moving back to Black Horse Golf Course in Seaside. Go to [concorso.com](http://concorso.com) a couple months before the big weekend. The best

thing to do is hang out in the parking lot and see any number of Italian exotica. But after you've seen 30 Ferrari Californias, isn't it time for some beer?

### The Quail: A Motorsports Gathering

Now that the Concorso has moved to Saturday, you can do both it and Quail! Still, there's absolutely no way you're getting in here for free, especially when its extraordinarily and dearly priced tickets (\$450 a pop!) sell out in about an hour. But you can hang around outside all day on Friday, Aug. 15, and look through the fence like a character from a Dickens novel. Or, check out the parking lot on the fairway across from The Quail. Or, better still, post up at an outdoor table at the Baja Cantina, have some of their killer guacamole and watch the car world drive by.

### Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion

The Pre-Reunion, a sort of test-n-tune before the big show, is Aug. 9-10. Anyone can sit on the hillsides and watch that for free. Or spend \$20 to enter the paddock (that's a great deal!). The actual Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion is Aug. 15-17, but you can go on Aug. 14 and still see many of the cars on the track from the hillsides for free. On Aug. 15-17 you have to buy a ticket, though.

### Auctions

The best way to see an auction, short of being a bidder, is to go to the Portola Hotel Aug. 15 and 16 and watch the cars lined up outside the RM Auction. Beautiful, classic cars will be fired up outside the hotel to be driven onto the block inside. RM gets some of the best cars sold at Monterey; you can see most of them gratis.

The Russo and Steele auction is now on the waterfront next to Fisherman's Wharf Aug. 14-16. There are always lots of great muscle cars and Ferraris lined up



■ Start collecting cans now: This Jaguar D-type sold for nearly \$4 million at the RM auction; caviar is ritzy, but Taco Bell is more filling—and orders of magnitude cheaper; the Concours on the Avenue is a free mini-Pebble in downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea; the Pre-Reunion offers most of the thrills of the big event without the hefty ticket price. Opposite page: If the price of the Tour d'Elegance wasn't appealing enough (it's free to watch from the roadside), it's also a prime opportunity to see some truly grand machinery in motion.

