

A Car Guy's Guide To The World

For most travelers, August is synonymous with family vacations, but for "car guys" — men and women with a passion for vintage vehicles — this is the month for attending a feast of automotive happenings.

Monterey Classic Car Week

The Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, the world's most renowned gathering of classic cars, will take place on Sunday, August 21, at The Lodge at Pebble Beach. The Concours encourages preservation of the world's great automobiles, and judges look for historical accuracy, technical merit, style, and elegance. Over the years, Pebble has spawned at least a dozen other gatherings, collectively known as "Monterey Classic Car Week." From August 15-21, the Monterey Peninsula's spectacular scenery and world-class golf courses will

take a backseat to motorsports, car auctions, a legendary car tour, and glamorous parties attended by an international who's who of car guys. (www.pebblebeachconcours.net)

The Pebble Beach Tour d'Elegance on Thursday, August 18, is a parade of Concours cars through the region's scenic driving routes. The group departs Pebble Beach together in the morning, and the cars are displayed on Ocean Avenue in Carmel for two hours before returning to Pebble Beach in the afternoon.

Starting on Friday, August 19, the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion offers an opportunity to see vintage cars from various eras and parts of the globe running on the famous Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. The Reunion brings vintage car racing to life over four days. (www.mazdaraceway.com)

In addition, Concorso Italiano will take place on Friday, August 19, and The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering, will be held at Quail Lodge Golf Course on Saturday, August 20.



BMW Welt, Munich, Germany

More Not-to-Be-Missed Car Guy Happenings — August isn't the only time car guys enjoy automotive events. Factory tours, auctions, museum exhibits, concours d'elegance, rallies, races, hill climbs, and tours take place around the globe throughout the year. A few of the most popular attractions are described below.

Peterson Automotive Museum, Los Angeles

Don't discount this museum just because it's close to home. The Peterson's permanent exhibits include *Hollywood Gallery*, *Cars of Film & Television* and *The Streetscape: The Car & the City in Southern California*. From now through February 5, 2012, visitors can see *Supercars: When Too Much is Almost Enough*, including a 2006 Bugatti Veyron. (www.peterson.org) >>



6.5 liter 1929 Bentley with polished aluminum boat-tail body on display at the Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance

<< Colorado Grand Car Rally, Vail And Beaver Creek, CO

One of the most scenic rally rides in the United States, the Colorado Grand Car Rally, takes place each fall in the gorgeous valley of Vail and Beaver Creek, Colorado — and the cars are as spectacular as the scenery. The next one is September 12–17.

(www.allvail.com)

Amelia Concours d'Elegance, Jacksonville, FL

Held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Amelia Island, this concours is second in significance only to Pebble Beach. In 2011, Best of Show went to the 1933 Duesenberg SJN Arlington Torpedo Sedan from The Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar, California. The next Amelia Concours — March 9–11, 2012 — will feature Ferrari GTO and Custom Coachwork Cadillacs. Amelia Island is located off the northeast coast of Florida near Jacksonville. (www.ameliaconcours.org)

French National Motor Museum, Mulhouse, France

Also known as “The Schlumpf Collection,” the 437 prestigious cars



here include two Bugatti Royales (including the famous Coupé Napoléon), 150 other Bugattis and various Hispano-Suiza, Ferrari, Rolls-Royce, Maserati, Maybach, and Mercedes models. The cars are lined up versus being creatively displayed, however the English audio guide is very good. With this curvaceous collection, the *Cité de l'Automobile* sees itself “as being to cars what the Louvre is to art.” Hotel du Parc in Mulhouse is a good lodging choice. (www.collection-schlumpf.com/en/schlumpf)

BMW Welt (Museum And Factory), Munich, Germany

The BMW museum reopened in its current high-tech state in 2008. It showcases the history of the BMW company, its brand, and its products in an innovative format that gets great reviews — even from visitors who aren't interested in cars. Book well ahead for tours of the BMW production plant by calling up to six months in advance. Tours last 2.5 hours and are offered Monday through Friday, 8:30am–10pm. (+49(0)1802 118822, www.bmw-welt.com)

Retromobile, Paris

More than 70,000 visitors from all over the world flock to this car show/swap meet/auction, which takes place in Paris once a year. Some car guys are shopping for an authentic part needed for a classic car restoration. Others, it appears, come for the camaraderie and the exhibits, such as Fangio's race cars and the Le Mans Renault 4cv. Retromobile 2012 will take place February 1–5. (en.retromobile.fr)

While Germany seems to be the most car-centric country, San Diego car guys have no shortage of automotive adventures. La Jolla is home to Symbolic Motors, Ferrari and Maserati dealerships, and hosts the La Jolla Motor Car Classic in Scripps Park every April. See www.ranchandcoast.com for a list of nearly 100 car guy attractions and events by geographical location. You can also access my travel blogs on our Web site. ELIZABETH HANSEN

