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**La Jolla Concours d’Elegance Winners: 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing Earns Best in Show at 19th Annual Event**

*From April 25 – 27, 2025, automotive enthusiasts from across the globe gathered in La Jolla, CA for a 3-day celebration of car culture and coastal luxury*

**LA JOLLA, CA (APRIL 28, 2025)** – The 19th Annual [La Jolla Concours d’Elegance](https://lajollaconcours.com/), presented by [LPL Financial](https://www.lpl.com/), concluded its most dazzling year yet, drawing over 15,000 guests to La Jolla’s sparkling coastline for a three-day celebration of extraordinary automobiles and coastal luxury. The coveted Best in Show honor was awarded to a 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing, owned by John and Kimberly Word of Newport Beach, CA.

Finished in black with a striking red interior, the iconic Gullwing captivated judges with its impeccable craftsmanship and restoration. Originally purchased by John Word in 1977 for $25,000—his first classic car—the vehicle was recently restored over four years by Hjeltness Restoration in San Diego. “She is my pride and joy,” said Word, reflecting on his nearly 50-year journey with the car.

Sunday’s grand Concours at Ellen Browning Scripps Park featured 122 meticulously restored automobiles, competing across eleven classes and fourteen specialty categories. This year’s theme, *“Mascots in Motion,”* paid tribute to the artistry of hood ornaments and the enduring legacy of automotive marques.

“This year’s Concours embodied everything we love about the event,” said Robert F. Kerner Jr., Co-Chairman of the La Jolla Concours d’Elegance. “From each collector’s passion to the awe on every guest’s face, it was an unforgettable weekend.”

The festivities kicked off Friday with the exclusive VIP Opening Soirée on the Concours lawn with 20 of San Diego’s top restaurants, live entertainment, and a sneak peek of the top Concours cars, followed by Saturday’s La Jolla Tour d’Elegance—a scenic rally of 75 vintage and modern marvels through La Jolla and Rancho Santa Fe—and Porsches & Power on Prospect, a free public display of 89 Porsches and hypercars in the heart of La Jolla.

The grand Concours event on Sunday featured standout marques including Bugatti, Delahaye, Packard, Porsche, Maserati, and Rolls-Royce, with vehicles curated by an all-volunteer committee led by Co-Chairs G. Michael Dorvillier and Robert F. Kerner Jr., alongside Chief Judge Nigel Matthews. Outside the Concours gates, the public enjoyed the La Jolla Motor Car Classic, featuring a vibrant mix of modern and vintage cars with a special showcase from Fast Lane Drive.

“We’re incredibly proud of what we accomplished this year,” said Dorvillier. “Thanks to our volunteers, sponsors, and community, the Concours continues to grow—and we’re already looking ahead to an unforgettable 20th anniversary in 2026.”

Proceeds from the 2025 La Jolla Concours d’Elegance benefit the La Jolla Historical Society, supporting the preservation of the community’s rich architectural and cultural heritage. This year’s event also emphasized education and mentorship through the Youth Judging Apprenticeship Program, held in partnership with the San Diego Automotive Museum, fostering the next generation of car collectors and enthusiasts.

The 20th Annual La Jolla Concours d’Elegance will return April 24-26, 2026.

Please find a full list of winners below and at [www.lajollaconcours.com](http://www.lajollaconcours.com).

**2025 La Jolla Concours D’Elegance Specialty Winners**

**BEST IN SHOW**

* John & Kimberly Word, 1955 Mercedes Benz 300 SL Gullwing

**OUSTANDANDING PRE-WAR**

* Valerie & Aaron Weiss, 1937 Rolls-Royce Phantom III Disappearing Top Coupe

**OUTSTANDING POST-WAR**

* Neville Ray, 1964 Aston Martin DB5 Coupe

**Mayor's Award**

* Dee Elias, 1967 OSI 20M TS Coupe

**Spirit of the Concours Award**

* Marlina Stone, 1937 Packard 115-C Business Coupe

**Donald Taylor Upholstery Award**

* Ken & Ann Smith, 1936 Delahaye 135 Competition Disappearing Top Convertible

**Phillip Wichard Excellence in Design Award**

* The Petersen Automotive Museum, 1925 Rolls Royce Phantom I Aerodynamic Coupe by Jonckheere

**Chief Judge Award**

* Cal DiMaggio, 1948 Mark lV Drophead Coupe 3.5-Liter Convertible

**Chuck Spielman Preservation Award**

* Julian White, 1988 Porsche 928 S4 Coupe

**La Jolla Historical Society Heritage Award**

* Deer Park Escondido, 1903 Oldsmobile, Curved Dash Runabout

**Honorary Judges Award**

* Tom & Gwen Price, 1946 Ford Roadster

**Co-Chairman's Award**

* Larry Icerman, 1930 Willys-Knight 66B Sport Roadster

**LPL Summit Best of Marque Award**

* Michael Sullivan, 1935 One Off Custom Gentlemen's Tailback Packard Speedster

**Timeless Elegance Award**

* The Nethercutt Collection, 1938 Lincoln Model K Twelve Touring Coupe

**2025 La Jolla Concours D’Elegance Class Winners**

**1) Cover Art Cars Open and Closed**

1st: Rob Walton, 1936 Bugatti Type 57SC Atlantic 2-Door

2nd: The Petersen Automotive Museum, 1925 Rolls Royce Phantom I Aerodynamic Coupe by Jonckheere

3rd: The Petersen Automotive Museum 1939 Delahaye T-165 V-12 Cabriolet "World's Fair"

**2a) Pre-War American and European Classics – Open: 1920 -1940**

1st: Tom O'Hara, 1934 1101 Packard Dietrich 4 Door Convertible Sedan

2nd: Donald Becker, 1936 SS Jaguar 100 Open Two Seater

3rd: The Coit Collection, 1934 Packard 8 Convertible

**2b) Pre-War American and European Classics – Closed: 1920 -1940**

1st: Robert Escalante, 1931 Packard 845 Deluxe Eight Limousine

2nd: Stephen Wheeler, 1930 Packard 726 Sedan

3rd: Richard Greenfield, 1937 Cadillac Limousine Coupe

**3) Lincoln Open and Closed 1930 – 1959**

1st: Jim Davidson, 1956 Lincoln Premiere Convertible

2nd: The Singleton Collection, 1938 Lincoln Model K LeBaron Coupe

3rd: The Nethercutt Collection , 1938 Lincoln Model K Twelve Touring Coupe

**4a) Post-War American and European Luxury – Open: 1947 – 1965**

1st: The Coit Collection, 1957 Ford Thunderbird F-Code Convertible

2nd: Cal DiMaggio, 1948 Mark lV Drophead Coupe 3.5-Liter Convertible

3rd: Kenneth Geiger, 1954 Buick Skylark Convertible

**4b) Post-War American and European Luxury – Closed: 1947 – 1965**

1st: Randolph & Melanie Hane, 1958 Cadillac Eldorado Brougham

2nd: Ventura, Kuehn & Associates, 1957 Chrysler Saratoga 2 Door Hardtop

3rd: William Cronkhite, 1954 Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn Standard Steel Saloon

**5) Historic Race Cars: 1925 – 1999**

1st: The William Lyon Family, 1965 Alfa Romeo Giulia TZ2 Competition FIA GT Berlinetta

2nd: Ed Palmer, 1970 Porsche 906 Spyder

3rd: Grand Prix Classics, 1964 Cobra 289 Roadster

**6a)** **European Sports Cars – Open: 1954 – 1975**

1st: George & Sibet Alspaugh, 1957 Porsche 356 Speedster

2nd: Steven Card, 1971 Jaguar E–Type Open Two Seater

3rd: Jackson Smith, 1958 Porsche 356A 1600 Speedster Convertible

**6b)** **European Sports Cars – Closed: 1954 – 1975**

1st: Neville Ray, 1964 Aston Martin DB5 Coupe

2nd: Michael & Sally Kerns, 1967 Bizzarrini Strada 5300 Coupe

3rd: Mark Angotta, 1965 Alfa Romeo Guilia Sprint Speciale Coupe

**6c) Maserati 1948 – 1972**

1st: John Clark, 1965 Maserati Sebring SII 2 Door Coupe

2nd: Cool Classics Int., 1959 Maserati 3500GT Coupe

3rd: Don Clem, 1968 Maserati Sebring II 2 Door Coupe

**7) Mercedes Benz: 1955 – 1975**

1st: John & Kimberly Word, 1955 Mercedes Benz 300 SL Gullwing

2nd: Chuck & Jennifer Brill, 1967 Mercedes Benz 250 SL Convertible

3rd: David Hurley, 1962 Mercedes Benz 220 SE Coupe

**8)** **Ferrari: 1953 – 1992**

1st: David & Pam Pham, 1985 Ferrari 308 QV GTS

2nd: Dr. Jay Fallon, 1972 Ferrari 365/GTB Daytona Berlinetta

3rd: Bill Ceno, 1985 Ferrari 288 GTO Coupe

**9) American Muscle: 1958 – 1974**

1st: Mark Boice, 1970 Plymouth Cuda Coupe

2nd: Dennis & Vicki Murfin, 1970 Ford Mustang Boss 429 KK2266 Sportsroof

3rd: Eric Vidmar, 1969 Dodge Daytona Coupe

**10) Iconic American Hot Rods: 1928 – 1941**

1st: The Coit Collection, 1935 Ford Model 48 3 Window Coupe

2nd: The Walker Family & Dan Withers , 1932 Ford Model B Cabriolet

3rd: Randy Carlson, 1929 Ford Model A Roadster

**11) Porsche 1965 – 1990**

1st: The Walker Family & Dan Withers, 1989 RUF CTR "Yellowbird" Coupe

2nd: Bill Ceno, 1988 Porsche 959 Komfort Coupe

3rd: Julian White, 1988 Porsche 928 S4 Coupe

**2025 La Jolla Concours Motor Car Classic Winners**

**Doug Pratt La Jolla Motor Car Classic Best in Show:**

* Robert Farrow, 1964 Shelby Cobra 289 FIA

**La Jolla Motor Car Classic Best Foreign:**

* Sam Clark, 1966 Sunbeam Tiger

**La Jolla Motor Car Classic Best Domestic:**

* Dane & Mignon Silvestri, 1962 Cadillac Deville Coupe

**La Jolla Motor Car Classic Chairman’s Choice:**

* P. Shawn Beall, 1963 Chevrolet Corvette Split-Window

**La Jolla Motor Car Classic Best Hypercar:**

* Roy - Fast Lane Drive, 2023 Ferrari Daytona SP3

**La Jolla Motor Car Classic Best Overall Ferrari:**

* Kenneth Tong 1973 Ferrari 365 GTB/4 Daytona

**La Jolla Motor Car Classic Best Front-Engine Ferrari:**

* Bruce Miller, 2009 Ferrari 599 GTB

**La Jolla Motor Car Classic Best Mid-Engine Ferrari:**

* Lou Lollio, 2003 Ferrari 360

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**About La Jolla Concours d’Elegance**

Recognized globally as one of the finest classic automobile showcases in the United States, the La Jolla Concours consistently draws discerning car enthusiasts from around the world. The 19th Annual La Jolla Concours proceeds will go towards the La Jolla Historical Society, which preserves the rich history of the village of La Jolla. In addition to the La Jolla Historical Society, the La Jolla Concours benefits several additional local community non-profit partners each year. For more information, to obtain a registration form or to purchase tickets to the featured weekend events, please visit [www.lajollaconcours.com](http://www.lajollaconcours.com) or call 619.233.5008