

Fairfield Concours

Local residents displaying their cars included Paul Newman, David Letterman, Lawrence Auriana, Leigh and Leslie Keno, and Malcolm Pray

by Donald Osborne



DETAILS:

Fairfield County Concours d'Elegance

Theme: Preserving the Classics

Location: Westport, Connecticut

Web site: fairfieldcountyconcours.com

Plan ahead: September 25, 2005

Eligibility: By invitation, with an emphasis on well preserved original cars and motorcycles

1956 Ferrari 250 GT owned by Richard Sirota

The inaugural Fairfield County Concours d'Elegance was held September 25, 2004, on the Veterans' Green in front of the town hall in Westport, CT. An organizing committee including former Christie's auction head Miles Morris and SCMer Bill Scheffler selected 69 important cars and 13 motorcycles, which attracted a crowd of over 2,000.

SCM Senior Auction Analyst Dave Kinney escorted an invited group of enthusiasts around the show, pointing out the attributes of the various cars on view.

The attendees saw entries ranging from a Connecticut-built 1914 Trumbull Roadster to a 1995 McLaren F1, as well as cars owned by noted local residents David Letterman (Ferrari 400 Superamerica), Paul Newman (Nissan SCCA race car), Leigh and Leslie Keno of Antiques Roadshow fame (Ferrari 512 BB LM), Lawrence Auriana (Alfa 8C 2900B, Cisitalia 202 Aerodynamica coupe) and Malcolm Pray (BMW 507, Jaguar SS). The assortment was well balanced between sports and racing cars, plus muscle cars and motorcycles. Classics were well represented, with cars in-



Walt Eisenstark's award-winning 1955 Lancia Aurelia Spyder



Cisitalia shown by Auriana

cluding a lovely '33 Rolls-Royce Phantom II Continental, Bentley 4 1/2-liter, '42 Packard Darrin and a '21 Mercer Raceabout.

SCM sponsored the awards for "Best Sports Car" in two categories. The 1955 Lancia Aurelia Spyder of Walt Eisenstark won the open division, and Larry Auriana's '47 Cisitalia

202 Aerodynamica Coupe won the closed. The Best of Show prize went to the Bentley 4 1/2-liter blower owned by Roger Nobel.

It was an auspicious start for a new event that has the potential to grow and become a valuable addition to the East Coast collector car scene. ♦