

Magneto

ISSUE

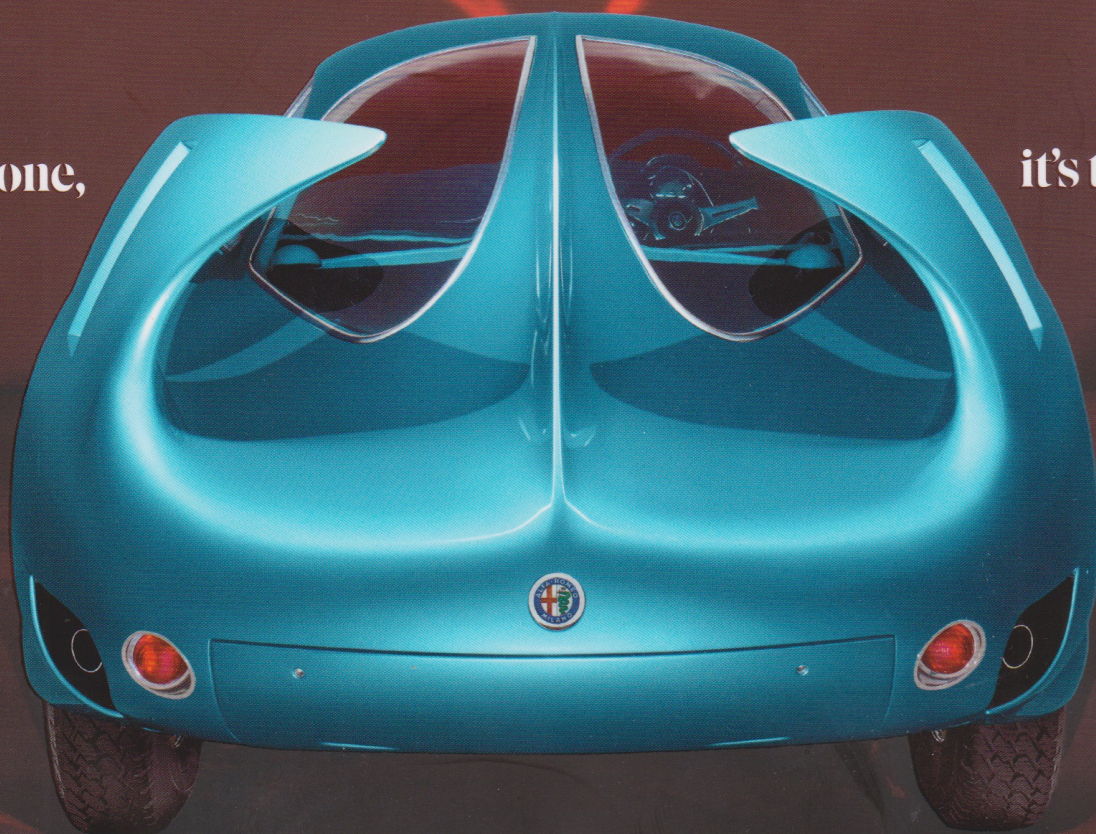
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SPRING
2020

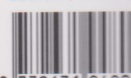
+ STEVE MCQUEEN LAND ROVER | PHIL HILL | FERRARI MODULO MEETS LANCIA STRATOS ZERO | BRABHAM BT52B | 50 GREATEST EVENTS

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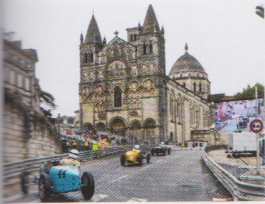
The Top 50 Greatest Events In The World



The collector car world is spoiled for choice with concours, rallies, races and shows. We round up the very best established events around the globe

WORDS

DAVID LILLYWHITE



50

CIRCUIT DES REMPARTS

Angoulême, France

So many incredible historic racing events to choose from, and Circuit des Remparts is by no means the biggest. In fact, it's relatively small, but it takes place on the narrow roads in the centre of historic Angoulême, south-western France, and that gives it an atmosphere all of its own. It's relaxed, yet fun and exciting to watch or to compete at. Vintage Bugattis seem to have found their natural home here, but there's a great variety of grids to see. *Next: September 18-20, 2020*



45

BERNINA GRAN TURISMO

St Moritz, Switzerland

There's a long history of racing on the beautiful Bernina Pass in the Swiss Alps, which this event has done much to revive. For two days the pass is closed to public traffic to allow historic single-seaters, Touring Cars, GT Prototypes and more to compete – along with demonstration runs by special classes such as Group B rally cars and Group C race cars. It is a truly special event in a magical location that really should be witnessed. *Next: September 17-20, 2020*

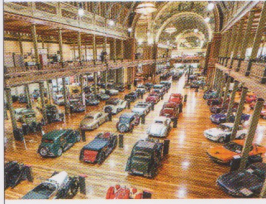


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ARIZONA AUCTION WEEK

Scottsdale, Arizona, US

A week of car auctions might sound like your idea of hell – or at the very least rather dangerous to your wallet – but there's nothing like this crazy week in and around Scottsdale, Arizona. Almost all the major auction houses hold sales, so collectors, dealers and potential buyers flock there, making for a heady party atmosphere and plenty of classics on display. The highlight is the huge, exuberant Barrett-Jackson sale – do not miss it. *Next: January 2021*



48

MOTORCLASSICA

Melbourne, Australia

Motorclassica has turned out to be a masterstroke, bringing the first premier-level concours to Australia. Melbourne's lovely Royal Exhibition Building gives the main concours a relaxed, classy feel, and a classic car tour and motor show add to the attractions. The cut-price After Five evening admission is a great idea – but we'd recommend the VIP Experience (lounge, food, drinks) if you really want to get the best of Motorclassica. *Next: October 9-11, 2020*



44

VERNASCA SILVER FLAG

Piacenza, Italy
If you remember the introduction of this event, which retraces the steps of the historic Castell'Arquato-Vernasca timed hillclimb, you might be shocked to learn that it celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2020. Fortunately, it's better than

ever, bringing important historic race cars to the Appennines region of Italy, to be displayed in the town of Castell'Arquato and take turns to run up the old 8.5km hillclimb route (closed to the other traffic) at 30-second intervals, to the delight of the locals and spectators alike. The event is for cars of any age up to early 1970, with entries open up to May – and the rarer the car, the more likely it is to be accepted. *Next: June 26-28, 2020*



47

RØMØ MOTOR FESTIVAL

Rømø, Denmark

This evocative event pays tribute to Denmark's history of beach racing, as between 1919 and 1924 the island of Fanø hosted some of Europe's most legendary pioneers looking to set speed records and test their mettle. Today, all eyes are on the wide, long sands of nearby Rømø, where pre-WW2 cars and bikes assemble once a year to relive those glory times, in a similar vein to the UK's VHRA Pendine Sands meet and the US's Race of Gentlemen. *Next: August 22, 2020*



43

TECHNO-CLASSICA

Essen, Germany

'Huge' is always mentioned in any description of Germany's Techno-Classica Essen – and that's fair enough. So many halls, such an incredible choice of spares, automobilia and cars for sale, along with fantastic displays taking entire halls each from the heritage divisions of the major German marques. Other European indoor events have grown in size and stature over the years, most notably Stuttgart, but Techno is still the daddy. *Next: March 25-29, 2020*



46

VINTAGE PRESCOTT

Gloucestershire, UK

That Vintage cars are still as popular as they are in the UK is largely down to the Vintage Sports-Car Club. The highlight of the club's motor sport meetings is Vintage Prescott, on the historic 1127-yard Prescott hillclimb, owned by the Bugatti Owners' Club since 1937. No event feels more English on a summer's day – picnics, oily hands fettling a Vintage engine, and the sights and sounds of the cars tackling that tricky hillclimb. Spiffing! *Next: August 1-2, 2020*



42

BEAULIEU INTERNATIONAL AUTOJUMBLE

Hampshire, UK

It's almost as though eBay never existed. Row upon row of stalls, laden with obscure parts, signs, books, posters – just about anything you can imagine. Witness happy souls dragging engines or body panels back to the car park, weary chaps wearing lists of parts required, tired autojumbles hitting the wine as the sun sinks... and best of all, it's based at the wonderful National Motor Museum in the glorious New Forest. *Next: September 5-6, 2020*

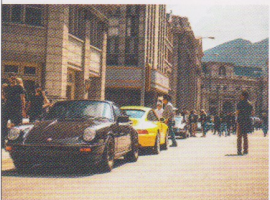


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LA FESTA MILLE MIGLIA JAPAN

Tokyo, Japan

The premier event in Japan is La Festa Mille Miglia, an 800-mile road rally for 89 classics, from 1919 to 1967. It starts in the Harajuku district of Tokyo and heads north to Kitashiohara, where competitors are based overnight, heading further north before returning for a second night there, ahead of the third day travelling back south. A fourth day is spent travelling along the east coast before finishing in Harajuku. Next: **October 2020**



35

LUFTGEKÜHLT

Various, mostly US

It's a Porsche event, specifically an air-cooled Porsche event, and there are plenty of those in the world. But Luft is special because it uses highly unusual venues – lumber-yards, film studios, etc – and sets out the feature cars artfully, building the mystique by not letting on the location until the last possible moment – although we know the next one is East Coast. And so Luftgekühlt has become a cult, with a following around the world. Next: **May 31, 2020**



40

HERSHEY FALL MEET

Pennsylvania, US

For the rest of the world, Hershey is known as the home of America's favourite chocolate – but if you're into cars you'll know it for the largest swapmeet in existence. There are over 9000 stands, plus 1000 car-coral spaces, along with around 1500 cars on show. If you were to walk every avenue, it's said you'd cover 29.5 miles. If you're looking for parts for American classics in particular, and you've got strong legs, this is the place to be.

Next: **October 7-10, 2020**



34

AUTO MOTO D'EPOCA

Padova, Italy

Italy's Rétromobile? Well, it certainly has the style and flair of its French counterpart, and although it's not as well established among Brits or Americans, for those in the



39

LA JOLLA CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

San Diego, US

The humble La Jolla Motor Car Classic first took place at this exquisite San Diego venue 16 years ago, and it's been honed into a world-class concours d'elegance that's every bit as impressive as its name ('the jewel' in Spanish) suggests. The superlative array of classic and collector cars are framed against a picture-perfect Pacific backdrop, and the hospitality laid on will delight all but the most jaundiced.

Next: **April 17-19, 2020**



38

BAY TO BIRDWOOD

Glandore, Australia

The Bay to Birdwood in south Australia is a huge 40-mile parade of cars that ends with a show and concours. It alternates each year between the Run (pre-1960 vehicles) and the Classic (1956-'86 vehicles) – except for in 2020, the event's 40th anniversary, the parade will consist of all ages of vehicle together, making it the biggest in history. And it was already the largest continually held motoring event in the world. It's great fun and an amazing spectacle. Next: **September 27, 2020**



33

RÉTROMOBILE

Paris, France

As the Continent's traditional season opener, Rétromobile draws crowds of 120,000-plus enthusiasts from as far afield as the US. Its home is at the Porte de Versailles Exhibition Centre, Paris, and you can count on it to offer something different to the norm, complete with those Gallic flourishes the French do so very well. Boasting hundreds of classic vehicles, automobilia sellers, clubs and parts dealers, plus auctions, Rétromobile is simply huge. Next: **February 2021**



37

GREENWICH CONCOURS OF ELEGANCE

Connecticut, US

Watch out behind you, because the Greenwich Concours is coming up fast. For its 25th running in 2020 the event comes under the ownership of Hagerty, which will take over from the Wennerstrom family that has nurtured this amazing event so admirably. It's become a massive event, with Saturday packed with American classics and the Sunday dedicated to overseas cars of the highest quality. Next: **May 29-31, 2020**



32

CAVALLINO CLASSIC

Florida, US

There are Ferrari events and there's the Cavallino Classic: the ultimate Ferrari event. Kicking off the season every January, the absolute cream of classic Ferraris converge on Palm Beach, Florida for tours, track sessions, parties, seminars and a renowned concours that is judged to the highest (ICJAG) standards. Although, incredibly, it rained for the 2019 event, generally this is a chance for some winter sun and the best Ferraris in the world. Next: **January 2021**

36

SCHLOSS DYCK CLASSIC DAYS

Jüchen, Germany



Unashamedly inspired by the Goodwood Festival of Speed, although on a smaller scale, Classic Days is based around the 11th century Schloss Dyck moated castle – and you won't be surprised to hear that it consists of exciting demonstration runs, a concours and car club displays. It's brilliantly done, with enough rarified machinery (two- and four-wheeled) to keep even Festival of Speed regulars happy, and offers a relaxed atmosphere in a truly special location.

Next: *July 31-August 2, 2020*

RIGHT
Blenheim Palace
provides a grand
backdrop for
Salon Privé.



30

SALON PRIVÉ
Oxfordshire, UK

If this was a record chart then we'd need a DJ excitedly proclaiming the ascendance of Salon Privé, as it's fast heading up the listings. Few other concours have improved so rapidly year-on-year, and the healthy rivalry between Salon Privé and the Concours of Elegance over the same days seems to have spurred the former in particular to head onwards and upwards.

Judging is overseen by former Pebble Beach head judge Ed Gilbertson, to be joined in 2020 by another Pebble regular, Nic Waller, as concours curator. The 2019 event saw the largest-ever collection of Bentleys gathered in one place,

and – crucially – each day is different. Thursday is the Concours d'Elegance, Friday is Ladies' Day celebrating elegance (and hats specifically) alongside the concours, Saturday adds the Masters-themed display (110 years of Alfa Romeo for 2020), and the Sunday opens up the event to the public with more than 1000 supercars and classics on display. Correspondingly large crowds attend.

All this takes place at one of the UK's greatest stately homes, Blenheim Palace – the birthplace of Winston Churchill and the current home of the Duke of Marlborough.

Next: September 3-6, 2020



29

SPA-CLASSIC
Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium

The greatest race track in the world? Could be... and if you have raced there you'll know it's fast and challenging, often with varying weather around the circuit. The La Source hairpin, Eau Rouge, Raidillon, Combes Esses, Malmédy corner, Pouhon double left-hander and curve at Blanchimont are all iconic features of this legendary track. It suits classics, so the two big historic Spa events are highly popular.

September's Spa Six Hours is fantastic – but May's Spa-Classic, from Peter Auto, is even better. Grids include the Porsche 2.0L Cup, Classic Endurance Racing, Endurance Racing Legends, Group C Racing, Heritage Touring Cup, Sixties' Endurance and The Greatest's Trophy (for 1950s and '60s endurance cars). The Touring Cars get two races, one of them on the Saturday evening.

The infield is packed with clubs and special displays, while Spa is one of those rare circuits at which it's possible to do a full lap on foot without losing sight of the track. There are so many iconic viewing points; the locations mentioned above are all worth laying out your picnic and settling down for an hour or two before moving on to the next spot.

Next: May 22-24, 2020



28

THE QUAIL, A MOTORSPORTS GATHERING

Carmel, California, US

Cars and gourmet food. What could be better? The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering has become the place for well-heeled Carmel locals to mix with the auto-world movers and shakers during Monterey Car Week. The not-insignificant entry costs cover food and drink throughout the day, with themed outdoor restaurants spread around the ever-expanding venue.

Along with the culinary offerings are the equally impressive cars and bikes, from pre-war to the latest hypercars, with many manufacturers choosing The Quail for world or US premieres of new models. For 2020, the 18th running, the special classes will include the 50th anniversary of the Lamborghini Urraco and Jarama, 50 years of the Alfa Romeo Montreal and the half-century of the Citroën SM. They'll supplement the regular classes of Post-War Sports, Post-War Racing, The Evolution of the Supercar, The Great Ferraris, Custom Coachwork, and Sports and Racing Motorcycles.

Such is the clamour for tickets that they're now granted by organiser Peninsula Events on a lottery basis. This opens every February, six months ahead of the event itself.

Next: August 14, 2020

LEFT
See historic
racing through
night at Belgium's
Spa-Classic.

31

DAYTONA CLASSIC
Florida, US

The Daytona 24 Hours is legendary, and this is historic racing's version of it, charging around the famous banked circuit through the night.

As with Le Mans Classic it doesn't subject historicists to non-stop running, but it instead schedules five groups of legendary race cars, from 1960 onwards, organised by performance and age to compete in one-hour sessions, four times each over the 24 hours. There's a three-minute pitstop during each session, regardless of whether a driver change is to take place or not.

The first group of race cars take the green flag at noon on the Saturday, and the following 24 hours go by in a haze of exhaust noise, hot dogs and lager. It's worth noting, too, that even before the noon start, there's practice and qualifying, and HSR sprint races.

It's interesting that as well as the thundering prototypes and endurance racers of the 1960s, '70s and '80s, more recent Daytona race cars, almost up to the present day, can race at the Classic – as can a select bunch of historicists that never raced in period at Daytona.

Next: November 4-8, 2020



LEFT Eifel Rallye Festival is best rally spectacle in world.



23

LA CARRERA PANAMERICANA

Mexico

Let's start by saying that La Carrera Panamericana makes all other classic events look really tame. Really, really tame. Mad, bad and dangerous to know since its instigation in 1950 to celebrate the inauguration of the recently created Pan-American Highway, it continued until 1954 and quickly acquired the reputation of being the ultimate road race – but lethal with it.

It was relaunched as an historic car event in 1988, and now around 80 classics complete the 3000km route through Mexico every autumn, along fast, dusty, treacherous roads. European sports cars mix with American saloons in original livery – the regulations allow 249 1940-'54 models, 200 1955-'73/'74/'75 (depending on class) cars and 50 modern classics that are allowed to follow the route on the understanding that they won't be classified in the results.

It's an event that's exhilarating, frightening and legendary, one of those bucket-list challenges that could be hard to resist for anyone looking for the ultimate automotive adrenaline fix.

Next: **October 16-22, 2020**

24

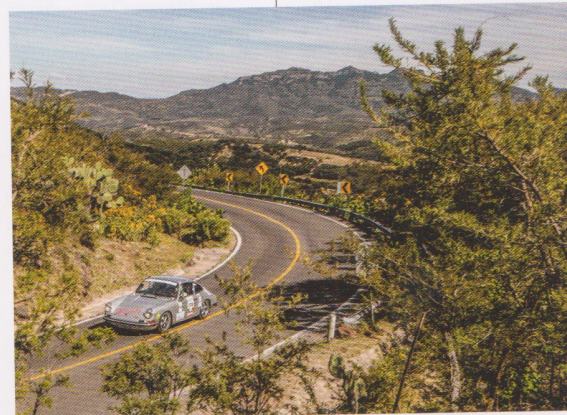
SILVERSTONE CLASSIC

Northamptonshire, UK

Incredible to think that Silverstone Classic celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2020 – and my hasn't it grown since the early days of the Coys Historic Festival as it was then. Now the world's largest historic racing festival, in 2019 it had more than 20 races and over 1000 entries, covering F1, Sports Cars, GT and Touring Cars. All grids can be seen in qualifying action on the Friday, while the races are spread across the Saturday and Sunday.

As well as open paddocks there are over 10,000 club cars on display, plus trade areas, fairground rides, auctions and big-name music concerts. If there's a downside to this huge event it is, of course, the sheer size of the site, and the distance between the track and viewing areas. But that's Silverstone (and most other F1-eligible tracks) for you – and there's plenty to make up for it.

Next: **July 31-August 2, 2020**



ABOVE Mexico's La Carrera Panamericana; mad, bad but fabulous.

26

ADAC EIFEL RALLYE FESTIVAL

Vulkaneifel, Germany

If you're a lifelong rally fan, it's probably fair to say that the Eifel Rallye Festival will thrill you to the core. For a decade it's been bringing a cross-section of around 160 top-flight historic cars from across 50 years of rallying to Germany's sparsely populated Vulkaneifel area.

From the capital of the region, Daun, the cars leave on challenging routes along country lanes and Tarmac and gravel special stages, with enough viewing areas and grandstands for the 10,000 visitors. The centre of Daun becomes Rally Mile, through which all the cars pass each day – and where scrutineering takes place from early on Friday morning.

Manufacturers and rally teams support the event with their heritage cars, as do many of the legendary drivers, including Stig Blomqvist, Harald Demuth, Jimmy McRae, Timo Salonen, Nicky Grist and more. For the best rally spectacle in the world, it really does have to be the Eifel Rallye Festival.

Next: **July 23-25, 2020**



25

CONCOURS OF ELEGANCE HAMPTON COURT

Middlesex, UK

The Concours of Elegance started out in 2012 to celebrate the diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's ascendance to the throne. That first event was at Windsor Castle, which was followed by a circuit of royal venues before settling into a residence at King Henry VIII's imposing Hampton Court Palace.

It's one heck of a venue, and it has allowed the concours to develop, adding new attractions and sponsors. The cars are of the highest quality you'll see in the UK, beautifully laid out through the Palace gardens.

The 60 vehicles of the main concours are joined by themed displays, along with club gatherings and a line-up of Royal Automobile Club member cars. It's relaxed and elegant, and should the cars lose their attraction for some of the family, there's plenty to see around the Palace itself.

Next: **September 4-6, 2020**

27

COLORADO GRAND

Colorado, US

Of all the American classic car tours, we think this is the best. US rallies tend to be more relaxed than their Euro equivalents, and this is no exception, being non-competitive and covering 1000 miles through the spectacular Rocky Mountains over five days during the fall.

Around 85 pre-1961 cars take part every year. Porsche 356s, Alfa Giuliettas and Big Healeys are the starting point, Gullwings, Cobras and Ferrari 250s are almost run-of-the-mill, and one-off special sports cars aren't unusual. Bugatti Type 57, Talbot-Lago, Delahaye and pre-war Alfa? Yep! This is one serious event.

It's been in existence since 1989; Englewood car fan Bob Sutherland started it with the aim of raising money for charity. It certainly achieved that, generating around \$500,000 a year for Colorado causes. To date, it's raised no less than \$6.5 million. Entries open every March, with the event taking place the following September.

Next: **September 14-19, 2020**



LEFT India's 21 Gun Salute offers heritage, culture and cars.



22

21 GUN SALUTE INTERNATIONAL VINTAGE CAR RALLY AND CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

Delhi, India

The first 21 Gun Salute took place in 2011, and since then it's steadily grown in size and quality. It's just switched to a biennial event, alternating with Cartier's Indian Concours, with 125 India-based collector cars planned for the show field, alongside 15 brought in from overseas and 25 classic motorcycles from around the world.

The two-day event starts off with a short rally through Delhi, culminating at the Karma Lakelands Golf Course. It's packed with colour and culture, and the quality of the cars might surprise anyone unfamiliar with the most recent Indian concours – restoration standards are impressive.

Looking for the complete experience? 21 Gun Salute also runs an additional Incredible India Tour – 35 cars, 23 days and 4000km, stopping at a different royal palace every day for meals. The tour ends at the concours, and all 35 cars will be exhibited.

If you've been to your fair share of UK, European and US concours, perhaps it's time to see how it's done in India.

Next: February 15-16, 2020



21

AUDRAIN'S NEWPORT CONCOURS AND MOTOR WEEK

Rhode Island, US

This is the newest event in the Top 50, because overall we've consciously stuck only with the most established to ensure consistency. Audrain's, though, came in with such a bang in 2019 that the committee of contributors to this article were all adamant that it should be included.

The organisers' ambition is for Audrain's to become the East Coast's answer to Pebble Beach or even Monterey Car Week overall. Based in elegant Newport, it's off to a strong start on venue, with the action centred around the Audrain's Automobile Museum and various stunning houses.

The inaugural concours was presided over by Jay Leno and his TV sidekick Donald Osbourne, since made event chairman. The quality of the cars impressed all involved, as did the various activities – including an evening concert by John Legend.

It's a gamble, but if Audrain's continues as it started, then it thoroughly deserves this high rating.

Next: October 1-4, 2020

20

HERO CLASSIC MARATHON

Spain and northern Portugal

The Classic Marathon really is the daddy, having kicked off the long-distance historic rally as we know it in June 1988, as the brainchild of the late Philip Young. Stirling Moss drove an MGB in that first event, inspiring a new genre that is stronger now than it's ever been.

Which of the rallies is best? That's very much about where to go, and how you like your balance of driving and relaxing, but we favour the Classic Marathon for its emphasis on endurance while still allowing just enough time to socialise and enjoy the luxury accommodation, for the spectacular scenery along the carefully chosen routes (different for each biennial running of the Marathon) and for the super-efficient running by the uber-experienced HERO team.

The 2020 event heads through the mountains of Spain and northern Portugal, with start and finish at the Las Caldas Spa Resort. This means UK competitors can make the two-day drive from the UK, take the Santander ferry or fly in, leaving the car to be transported down.

Next: June 7-12, 2020

19

AVD OLDTIMER GRAND PRIX

Nürburgring, Germany

Whether you view the Nürburgring Nordschleife as heaven on earth or the Green Hell, as Jackie Stewart referred to it, it's hard to deny the appeal of the AvD Oldtimer Grand Prix – one of the world's largest historic racing festivals.

What a place to race! What a place to spectate, for that matter – and more than 60,000 people do that every year at the Oldtimer, to watch (typically) around 14 grids of historic race machines that include Touring Cars,

Masters Formula 1, Formula Junior and even rally cars. Some of the grids are 50 strong, so there's no shortage of machines to watch.

The racing takes place on the historic, twisting 12.8km Nordschleife, and the racing circuit combined with the ultimate challenge for drivers and endless viewing opportunities for the spectators. There's also better than settling down on a grass bank to watch to watch historic race cars tear past on the famous 'graffiti' of Tarmac.

If you can't make the Oldtimer, don't miss the smaller but still massive Nürburgring Classic Open. **Next: August 24, 2020**



17

EAST AFRICAN SAFARI CLASSIC RALLY

Kenya, Africa

The organisers tag it as “the world’s greatest classic rally”. Ballsy, but they have a point. It’s extremely tough, yet regulars such as Porsche specialist Richard Tuthill are near evangelical about the appeal of rallying through Kenya, where roads disappear overnight and hazards are as likely to include a hungry lion as the infamous red mud.

The East African Safari Classic was inspired by the glory days of the Safari Rally, devised in 1953 to honour Queen Elizabeth’s coronation. The Classic, first run in 2003, is open to two-wheel-drive, normally aspirated FIA rally cars built before 1986. Over nine days it covers 5000km (3100 miles) through the remarkable landscape of Kenya and Tanzania, passing through national parks and stopping overnight at some of Africa’s finest lodges.

It’s tough, there’s no getting away from that, and to take part you need an experienced back-up crew. But for unique, life-changing experiences, it’s probably at the top of the list.

Next: Nov/Dec 2020



16

RALLYE MONTE-CARLO HISTORIQUE

Various starts to Monaco

Who wouldn’t want to ‘do the Monte’? What a thrill to relive the escapades of Paddy Hopkirk, Björn Waldegård, Jean Ragnotti and so many more heroes of Rallye Monte-Carlo. It’s a thrill and a privilege to follow just a few days behind the modern-day Monte, but it’s tough, too, with snowy Alpine cols to negotiate in the last pre-Monaco stages.

Competitors start from all over Europe; for 2020 it was Glasgow, Reims, Barcelona, Athens, Bad Homburg and Monte-Carlo, all converging in south-east France for the toughest stages of all. Only cars of a type that took part between 1911-’80 are eligible, and you’ll find that small, agile ones are just as likely to win as powerful models, as 2019’s Renault 8 victory proves. You’ll be mixing with a few rally greats, too, because drivers such as Ragnotti, Walter Röhrl and Bruno Saby still regularly take part.

For a slightly easier – but still challenging – ride, the Rallye Monte-Carlo Classique follows mostly the same route but without some of the time-keeping elements. Both are organised by the Automobile Club de Monaco.

Next: January 2021

LEFT Seeing red on the East African Safari Classic Rally.



14

MONACO GRAND PRIX HISTORIQUE

Monte-Carlo, Monaco

It’s Monaco, baby! We’d say you can close your eyes and just picture iconic machinery sweeping past the casino or the harbour, but actually at the GP Historique there’s no need to close your eyes, because all those famous race cars tend to be on track. The Historique happens every two years, ahead of the F1, using the same infrastructure – and the same layout that the GP has followed almost unchanged since 1929.

More than for any other venue it helps if you have invested in some sort of hospitality package, because so many of the best viewing spots are taken by sponsors, and there’s more chance to wander through the paddocks if you’ve got an access-all-areas pass (they’re otherwise accessible at lunchtimes and after racing has finished for the day). Choose your hotel well and you might even have a decent view of the action from your room – although the ultimate, of course, is to base yourself on one of the yachts in the harbour.

Don’t miss the chance to peruse the auctions or wander the streets to find new viewing spots as well.

Next: May 8-10, 2020



15

MODENA CENTO ORE

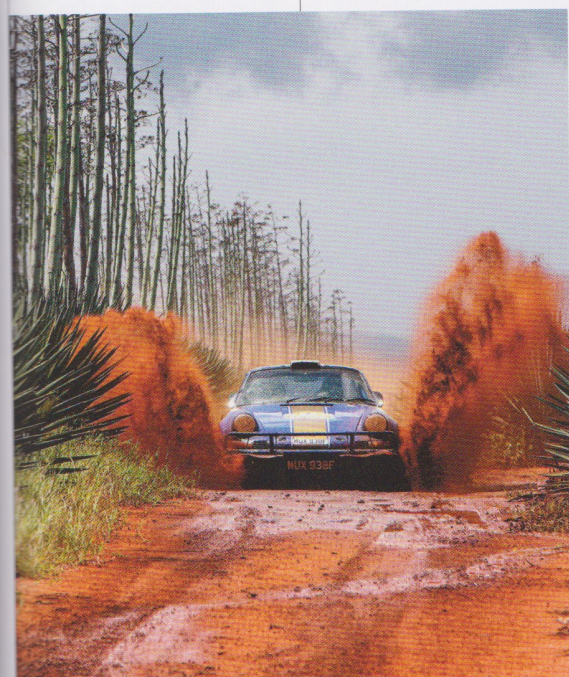
Rome to Modena, Italy

If you’ve ticked the Mille Miglia off your list, can’t get an entry or simply don’t fancy the madness of it, then there’s a tried-and-tested alternative that those in the know swear by: the Modena Cento Ore, which celebrates its 20th year in 2020.

All the best elements of the Mille Miglia are there – the cars, the people, a spectacular route – but without the chaos. It’s limited to just 100 cars from the 1930s through to the 1980s, competing in either the Competition class or the more relaxed Regularity class.

The Modena Cento Ore heads from Rome via Florence to Modena, and uses the best roads, circuits (including Imola) and special stages. Hotels and dinner locations are the most outstanding that Italy has to offer, and the organisation and atmosphere are superb, meaning those who’ve taken part once tend to go back time after time. Be sure to book early.

Next: June 2-6, 2020





13

CONCORSO D'ELEGANZA
VILLA D'ESTE

Cernobbio, Italy

If there's any car event that epitomises *la dolce vita*, it's Villa d'Este. Fifties Ferraris, Riva boats, beautiful people and spectacular villas, against the picturesque Lake Como framed by snowcapped Alpine mountains. It's just perfect.

Despite its reputation as Europe's Pebble Beach, the BMW Classic-sponsored concours isn't huge, but the selection of cars and bikes is sublime, added to by the latest concepts from manufacturers, who take the competition for the Concept Car Best of Show extremely seriously. Classic classes this year include Hypercars of the 1990s, Cops and Robbers cars, and 1960s-'80s endurance racers.

Entry to the Saturday concours is limited, and 2020 tickets are already sold out, but the same cars are shown at the equally beautiful Villa Erba on the Sunday. Why not also book a boat ride on the lake, stroll through Cernobbio town, sit in the lakeside cafés and generally relax? There's no better place for it.

Next: **May 22-24, 2020**

12

MONTEREY
MOTORSPORTS REUNION
California, US

Historic race cars at Laguna Seca, more properly known as the WeatherTech Raceway. What more could you ask for? The Monterey Motorsports Reunion takes place during Monterey Car Week, attracting the best cars of the US West Coast and beyond, from brass era to 1980s IMSA monsters. The noise of the 1960s CanAm and 1970s TransAm grids is out of this world.

The circuit sits in a hot, dusty natural bowl, and it twists and turns to the top of the hill, and then back down the infamous Corkscrew, one of the greatest sections of track in the world. The racing isn't always quite as 'spirited' (okay, aggressive) as in the UK and Europe, but the venue is stunning, with accessible paddocks and brand displays. If only the off-track attractions were a little higher quality.

Be prepared for the huge temperature differences between coastal events and sun-baked Laguna Seca a few miles inland. Look out for the shuttle trolleys, don't feel the need to dress smartly, take lots of sun-cream and wear ear protectors for the TransAms...

Next: **August 13-16, 2020**



11

GOODWOOD
MEMBERS' MEETING
Sussex, UK

"Like the Revival but without the crowds" is the usual description of the Members' Meeting. Also, it's colder, and newer cars are allowed to race, most notably 1970s saloons such as the Rover SD1 and Ford Capri 3.0, plus Group C and Turbo F1 demos.

It's a continuation of the BARC race meetings of the 1950s and '60s, revived in 2014 for the 72nd Members' Meeting, and it's open only to GRRC members – or, seeing as there's a waiting list for full membership, you can buy into the GRRC Fellowship for £39, which will then allow you to buy MM tickets.

Best to do both days; the racing is spectacular, there's full paddock access and the food hall features live music. But if you do just one day, make it Saturday and stay for the dusk race, fireworks, circus displays and superb party: that special Goodwood touch sets this above other meetings. Period gear isn't required, but dress stylishly and, above all, warmly. Brrrr!

Next: **March 28-29, 2020**



10

AMELIA ISLAND
CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE
Florida, US

Florida, US

We've been guilty of describing Amelia Island as "America's second-best concours" in the past, but actually that does it an injustice. There's as much to see as at Pebble Beach, but in a more relaxed atmosphere, with even more eclectic displays. We've seen the Bullitt Mustang, Cars and Guitars and the vehicles of customiser Ed 'Big Daddy' Roth, to name but a few.

The event has grown hugely in recent years, and now attracts several auction houses and a spectacular free-entry Cars and Coffee on the Saturday. Add to that excellent seminars and plenty of manufacturer activity, and you've got one hell of an event. Oh, and of course it's on the beautiful Florida East Coast, and close to Jacksonville, home of Hurley Haywood, Brumos Racing and the new Brumos museum. For 2020's 25th anniversary, the honoree is racer and team owner Roger Penske, so expect lots of NASCAR and Indy content.

Next: **March 5-8, 2020**



9

BONNEVILLE
SPEED WEEK
Utah, US

Utah, US

As time goes by, and environmental conditions combined with irresponsible mining thin the famous salt flats, racing at Bonneville becomes ever more precarious. Every year there's always a chance that the flats will be flooded and events won't take place.

But usually they do. And then competitors and visitors are treated to a sight like no other, one that's enchanted petrolheads since the early days of motoring, and really took off with hot-rodding in the 1940s. This is where Malcolm Campbell achieved the first-ever 300mph pass, in 1935, where Craig Breedlove and Art Arfons battled throughout the 1960s for the Land Speed Record, and where Gary Gabelich achieved over 1000km/h (630mph) in the rocket-powered Blue Flame in 1970.

There are two major events held at Bonneville now: Speed Week and the World Finals. We prefer Speed Week for the sheer variety of machinery. Conditions are harsh, accommodation in nearby Wendover is sparse and basic, but can you say you're a true car guy if you haven't done Bonneville?

Next: **August 8-14, 2020**

ABOVE
Catch speed-record
action at Bonneville
while you still can.

RIGHT
Exhausting
conditions on
Peking to Paris.



8

CHANTILLY ARTS & ELEGANCE Oise, France

Here's an event that takes the original concept of concours d'elegance and ramps it up several notches. There's no more beautiful and *elegant* concours anywhere in the world, and we don't think there ever has been.

The venue is the sublime Château de Chantilly, 25 miles north of Paris. It was the work of Henri d'Orléans, Duke of Aumale, son of the last King of France, Louis-Philippe, and houses the second-largest collection of antique paintings in France after the Louvre.

The concours utilises the château's formal gardens and ornamental lake to display the concours cars new and old, with hundreds of additional classic vehicles from French clubs shown off in the grounds of the estate.

But the château is also home to the Museum of the Living Horse in the adjoining Grand Stables, which allows stunning equine displays to punctuate the car features – and, in addition, there are art displays, craft demonstrations, children's activities, music and dancing, and fashion shows. It really is the most civilised of events.

We just hope that the news that the Aga Khan is to end his support of the château won't affect the concours.

Next: **Summer 2021**

7

PEKING TO PARIS MOTOR CHALLENGE

China, Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Germany, Belgium and France

The ultimate adventure? Thirty-six days and 8500 miles (going by 2019 figures) through genuinely tough terrain, including the great wilderness of the Mongolian desert. Daily mileages are typically around 250, but there are some 400-mile days; as the organisers at the Endurance Rally Association (now part of HERO) point out, this is an endurance event after all...

You'll camp in the desert, you'll need to repair your

car in the most difficult conditions and you'll need a tough, competent co-driver. And a tough, competent and well prepared vehicle, too... But completing the Peking to Paris, following the route taken by first race winner Prince Scipione Borghese in 1907, is truly special.

Car choices vary wildly, although there are old favourites in both the Vintage and Classic class, including Cricklewood-era Bentleys and 1930s Chevrolet and Ford Coupes in the former, and Volvo Amazons, Porsche 911s and Datsun 240Zs in the latter. But the 2019 entry list included a 1907 Contal tricycle [shudder] and a Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow, so there's no need to be too predictable.

Next: **Summer 2022**



6

LE MANS CLASSIC

Le Mans, France

It's the dead of night, and you're stood at Mulsanne. Headlights flicker into view, the roar gets ever louder, and then the pack arrives at the corner, braking hard, exhausts popping, brake discs glowing. A 917 with a Ferrari 512S on its tail out-brakes a GT40, and all three catapult out of the corner towards Arnage, leaving you shaken and stirred.

This is the Le Mans Classic. It's not as slick or seamless as the modern-day 24 Hours, because the six 'plateaus' or grids run in stages through the 24 hours, rather than subjecting the historic cars to continuous running. But my God, it's evocative and exciting.

It's also rather more civilised than the modern 24 Hours. Fewer spectators, far fewer drunken Englishmen, and a better class of food, drink and merchandise. The campsites don't resemble war zones, and, of course, there's glamping or stays in nearby châteaux for those less keen on basic tent life.

Half the fun is the drive down in an interesting car, and the obligatory pilgrimage around the circuit before the roads are closed ahead of the racing. You will fall in love with Le Mans all over again.

Next: **July 2-5, 2020**



5

LONDON TO BRIGHTON VETERAN CAR RUN

UK

How can travelling at 30mph (if you're lucky) feel so exciting? Why would anyone brave the UK in November in a car with minimal weather protection? And what makes thousands of spectators stand in the cold for hours?

All these questions are answered when you take part in, or even simply watch, the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run. It's an institution, the world's longest-running auto event, instigated in 1897 to commemorate the passing of the Locomotives on Highways Act in 1896, which raised the maximum speed for vehicles under three tonnes from 4mph to 14mph, and abolished the need for someone to walk in front of them with a red flag.

From the dawn start in London's Hyde Park to the finish on Madeira Drive on the Brighton seafront, the run still takes place, open only to pre-1905 cars and (more recently) motorcycles. Taking part can feel like a feat of endurance, nursing sometimes cantankerous machinery through modern traffic conditions, but the camaraderie and spectators' support are second to none – and many seasoned race and rally entrants count the London to Brighton as their favourite event of the year.

Next: **November 1, 2020**



LEFT Historics
race through night
at Le Mans Classic.



4

GOODWOOD FESTIVAL OF SPEED

Sussex, UK

The head says the Festival of Speed should be number one, but the heart beats harder for... well, you'll get to that in a minute. But, my goodness, the Festival of Speed is incredible, brilliant, mind-bogglingly amazing.

Based around the imposing Goodwood House and its driveway, which handily serves as a challenging hillclimb, the Festival of Speed has replaced the staid British Motor Show as the place for manufacturers to show off their wares. Thankfully, however, it's so much more than that, and it's not all about the F1 and WRC cars, either – although they help...

No, for *Magneto*, the appeal of the Festival of Speed is in the crazy gems that the event has the power to turn up. The Hurst Hemi Under Glass wheelie car, the Beast of Turin Fiat, Don Garlits' Swamp Rat dragster, the Lotus 38 Indycar, Jaguar's XJ13, and hundreds, maybe thousands more. It's incredible – and they're all easily viewed in the busy paddocks.

If you're there for only a day, you might not even make it to the slippery forest rally course at the top of the hill – but you'll be missing out. Ditto the drift track, the BMX stunts, the Future Lab, the Supercar Paddock... the list goes on and on. So really, you need to be at the Festival for two days at the very least.

Next: **July 9-12, 2020**

3

MILLE MIGLIA

Brescia-Rome-Brescia, Italy

Everything you've heard about the Mille Miglia is probably true, and yet likely doesn't even get close to the true madness of it all. Yes, entire families sit out for hours to wave and cheer. Yes, children are given time off school to watch the cars go by. Yes, the police wave the cars through red lights, and their motorcycle-mounted colleagues ride alongside, urging you to go faster.

There's an air of chaos that's inevitable when you have 400 classic cars tearing through Italy, not to mention support vehicles, photographers and the accursed supercar runs that accompany the Mille Miglia (the last thing you need when nursing the drum brakes of an XK120 is to be cut up by a hotshot in a new Ferrari). But underneath it all you might be surprised to hear that the Mille Miglia is slickly organised. Paperwork and scrutineering are generally dealt with efficiently, accommodation and hospitality are well organised (although you may find it's a long drive to your hotel), and marshalling is superb – albeit accompanied by a lot of arm waving.

Survival tips? Read all the documentation well before

the event. Keep your head when all around you (particularly Gullwing drivers) are losing theirs. Remember that you can jump red lights when the police tell you to, but not when there are no police around. Don't stress if you get delayed, there's usually plenty of time to get to time checks. And if you feel the red mist beginning to descend, take a deep breath, because that's when accidents happen on the Mille Miglia.

All that in mind, there is little better in life than blasting through stunning Italian countryside or driving through beautiful historic town centres to the cheers of thousands of spectators in the wheeltracks of Messrs Moss and Jenks.

So, all you need is an entry... You need a car of a type that competed in the Mille Miglia between 1923 and '57, or better still, one that actually did compete. You don't want something that everyone else (especially sponsoring manufacturers) has got. You need a well presented provenance file. Then you need to pay to register your car a year ahead with the Mille Miglia and cross all your fingers.

Next: **May 13-16, 2020**



2

PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

California, US

It wasn't the first-ever concours d'elegance, but for decades it's been the most important – and in 2020 Pebble Beach celebrates its 70th anniversary.

If you haven't been, it might be easy to dismiss the appeal of cars sitting static on a golf course. But the golf course is one of the best in the world, lying on the stunning Monterey Peninsula on the Pacific coast, and the automobiles are absolutely the greatest on the planet.

At Pebble Beach you see cars that you've never seen before, and that you might

ABOVE Pebble Beach is the world's top concours – and it is 70 this year.

never see again. It was at Pebble Beach that the BAT cars, for example, were reunited for the first time in decades, back in 1989. It was there that all the Bugatti Royales were gathered, and more recently where the best-ever collection of the greatest Vintage Bentleys was assembled to mark the revered brand's centenary.

Vehicles are restored specifically for Pebble Beach, and revealed there exclusively. Teams of judges pore over the cars, and nowhere else are the judging results taken as seriously. To win Best of Show is the ultimate accolade for any serious collector.

This 70th year will be celebrated by bringing in many previous Best of Show winners, while Pininfarina's 90th birthday will be marked with pre-war and post-war classes for its designs, as well as another for Pininfarina-styled Ferraris. A line-up of Carrera Panamericana cars will echo a 1953 Pebble Beach display of the Mexican road racers when they were contemporary, while Miller race machinery will form another special class.

Get there early before the sun comes up, watch the cars trundle onto the lawns as the mist drifts in off the ocean, grab yourself a coffee, doughnut and revered Dawn Patrol cap at the Hagerty stand, and settle into the world's greatest concours.

Next: **August 16, 2020**





GOODWOOD REVIVAL

Sussex, UK

There was a moment in the early days of the Revival, appropriate to this issue of *Magneto*, when Phil Hill and Carroll Shelby were reunited at the famous circuit. As their voices boomed over the PA system, competing with the noise of countless thoroughbred engines revving, visitors stood stock still in their smart period clothes to listen in awe, hairs on the back of the neck collectively standing to attention.

That's the Revival, where for two decades the impossible has been made possible. Who would have thought us self-conscious

Brits could be persuaded to dress up en masse in wartime uniforms, or as Woodbine-era mechanics or tweed-clad gentry? (It's now those who haven't made the effort who feel daft). Or believed that a circuit which had descended into near-dereliction by the 1980s could become the premier go-to destination of the world's leading car collectors? Or that it would then become the one place in the world where current F1, Touring Car and Le Mans drivers would compete so fiercely in historic cars, alongside pro historic drivers and happy amateurs?

Yet there's so much more

even than that. It's the remarkable combination of the location – a historic, former World War Two airfield perimeter road-turned-racetrack nestled in the rolling hills of the South Downs – and the entry list – the greatest of pre-1966 racing cars – combined with a remarkable attention to detail that sees all service vehicles as pre-'66, food served in reproduction '60s newspaper, and actors and extras playing out entertaining scenes around the circuit.

After a few visits you might get used to the Glam Cab girls offering you a ride in a liveried Mk1 Cortina, a spiv

furtively showing you the watches hanging from the inside of his jacket before he's chased away by the Keystone Cops, the mods and rockers eyeing each other faux-aggressively across the forecourts of period garages, the Spitfires flying low overhead and the eye-popping, heart-stopping racing taking place on track. But the thrill never goes.

For most racers, the opportunity to compete is the ultimate ambition, and with it comes the chance to mingle with the best in the Drivers' Club. It's not an easy entry – a willingness to share the job with a big-name driver is a

prerequisite, the ability to introduce said driver to the Revival pushes you further up the list, and a previously unseen car of special provenance helps some more. No point going for the same car as everyone else, either – that's not what it's about.

As an example of how competitive is the push for entries, just witness the clamour to qualify for the Settrington Cup, the big names involved, and the incredible standards of preparation of the cars on the grid. The Settrington Cup? Yes, that's the children's pedal-car race...

Next: **September 11-13, 2020**

