



Concorso Italiano

The thirty-ninth Concorso Italiano was held per schedule on 17 August 2024. Here's a summary of the run-up to this year's show: Concorso Italiano ownership changed earlier this year. The new owner(s) bungled things. At the last minute another group took charge and avoided a catastrophe. Kudos to these saviors. Scott's "Steering Column" on page 5 offers more details.

THIS YEAR AT CONCORSO

After I parked my rental car in general parking, a young man driving a golf cart gave me a ride to the entrance where check-in went smoothly. After scanning my media credential's confirmation QR code, I was promptly given a lanyard with a media badge that allowed me entry to the show.

After entering, I encountered an array of Italian mopeds and motorcycles followed by a display of new Pininfarina cars near the podium. Nearby was a Bizzarini. A Cisitalia 202 sat off to the left of the podium. Other special cars displayed along the wall of the golf course restaurant included an Alfa Romeo F1 replica and 1900 coupe, both courtesy of the Peterson Museum, and a 1938 6C 2300B Mille Miglia owned by Alex Pilibos. The F1 car is an exact rolling replica show car built by the Alfa Romeo F1 Team last year for US promotional purposes; it is an exact copy of the car campaigned by Valtteri Bottas.



1971 A12 and Spider



A current Pininfarina



Roger Van Alst with his roundtail and cool Alfa display

The total number of displayed cars continued its downward trend this year. Over three hundred and twenty vehicles were registered, so a reasonable estimate of vehicles on display likely comes closer to three hundred and fifty after adding in last minute drive-ons.

As in previous years the program included a fashion show that included Monterey County residents, both men and women, who walked the runway in front of the podium. (I don't recall male models in previous fashion shows, but then I didn't view the fashion show in every Concorso that I attended.) There was no grandstand seating as in previous years, so people mostly stood

during presentations.

Before and after the fashion show the crowd was treated to live music with songs sung by Monika Spruch, a soprano and founder of Catwalk Opera. Ms. Spruch possesses a lovely voice and wowed the crowd.

To my eye there were more vendor booths present than in the past, including a larger Italian presence. Establishing close ties with organizations in Italy was a theme promoted by the first new owner. Whether that theme will continue is TBD.

The Italian car magazine "Quattroruote" was listed as a participant, but I almost missed them because their tent was labeled "Scuderia Mazzocchi." Who's Mazzocchi?

Giovanni Mazzocchi founded the Italian publisher Editoriale Domus in 1929 and launched "Quattroruote" magazine in 1959. (Quattroruote translates as "four wheels.") Quattroruote is available at newsstands all over Italy. I suspect that the name Mazzocchi is known to Italian car people, just as the Peterson name is known to US car people.

Scuderia Mazzocchi (Mazzocchi's stable) was created under the guidance of Giovanna Mazzocchi Bordone, president of Editoriale Domus. Scuderia Mazzocchi offers car condos, car storage, maintenance, other car-related services, and track access at the Vairano circuit outside of Milan. Vairano is also known as ASC-Quattroruote.



ARA President Scott Pinsky with wife Toni and their Spider

ALFAS ON THE GREEN

The A12 truck may have been the first Alfa truck to appear at Concorso Italiano. (Someone with more knowledge of Concorso history should feel free to correct me.) However, it's not the first appearance of an Alfa truck in *Cams*: see page 18 of "*Alfa Blue Team*" (Mar 2015) and "*From the Archives of Museo Fratelli Cozzi*" (Feb 2021).

Although the forty-seven Alfas on the field were fewer than in the past, all the cars were lovely. And there were stories.

Ken Smith's 1984 Spider wears black with metal flake paint, a special color that was available for only one year. The shift knob was a gift from Ken's father who was a Steinway and Son piano technician

and knew about wood-- it's a nut from a monkey tree pod. The nut does not have a finish; its sheen comes from being handled.

Dino Crescentini, Jr., of Las Vegas, brought a 1961 Giulietta Sprint into which he had swapped a later twin-spark engine from a model 75. Dino said that they can do this conversion for others as well. Dino also mentioned that as a kid he had helped his father, Dino Sr., write the contents of the Alfa Ricambi catalog.

Totem Automobili brought their muscular GT Electric, an electrified version of their GT Super which was shown in 202X.

AWARDS

The Lopresto Honorary Chairman's Award, presented on behalf of the Italian

elite collector Corrado Lopresto by Gian Luca Pellegrini (editor-in-chief of Italy's "*Quattroruote*"), was presented to the 1956 Fiat 1100 TV Vignale owned by the Italian (Turin) car collector Marco Gastaldi.

The Best in Show Award, designed by renowned automotive designer Walter De Silva, was presented to the Maserati Sebring II 1968 of Don Clen.

Alfa awards:

- 1st place: 1966 2600 Spider (Judson Althoff)
- 2nd place: 2018 Giulia Quadrifoglio (Maciej Nejmantowicz, who is coincidentally President of Delta Sierra Alfa Romeo Club)
- 3rd place: 1956 Giulietta Spider (Rob Shanahan)



Totem Automobili GT Electric



Bizzarrini 5300 GT Corsa Revival



CONCLUSION.

The last-minute efforts by the saviors not only kept Concorso Italiano alive, but resulted in a good show. That nice cars were present was a given. More important was that the show went on smoothly and people enjoyed themselves.

Steve Semenzato, one of the saviors and an *alfista*, joined us at the Post Concorso Italiano dinner. After dinner he spoke to the group about the planning of this year's show and said that Concorso Italiano will be held again next year. Next year will be its fortieth occurrence. *CAMS*

All photos by the author except award photos



1st place Alfa: 1966 2600 Spider (Judson Althoff)
Award photos on this page by James Treadwell



2nd place Alfa: 2018 Giulia Quadrifoglio
(Maciej Nejmantowicz)



3rd place Alfa: 1956 Giulietta Spider
(Rob Shanahan)



Alfa Romeo F1 replica (Peterson Museum)



1900 (Peterson Museum)



Lopresto Honorary Chairman's Award:
1956 Fiat 1100 TV Vignale



Best of Show: Maserati Sebring II 1968



Luna Ramirez of the Peterson Museum drove this loaner quad to Monterey while her Hellcat was in the shop!



Fashion show model



Monika Spruch, soprano



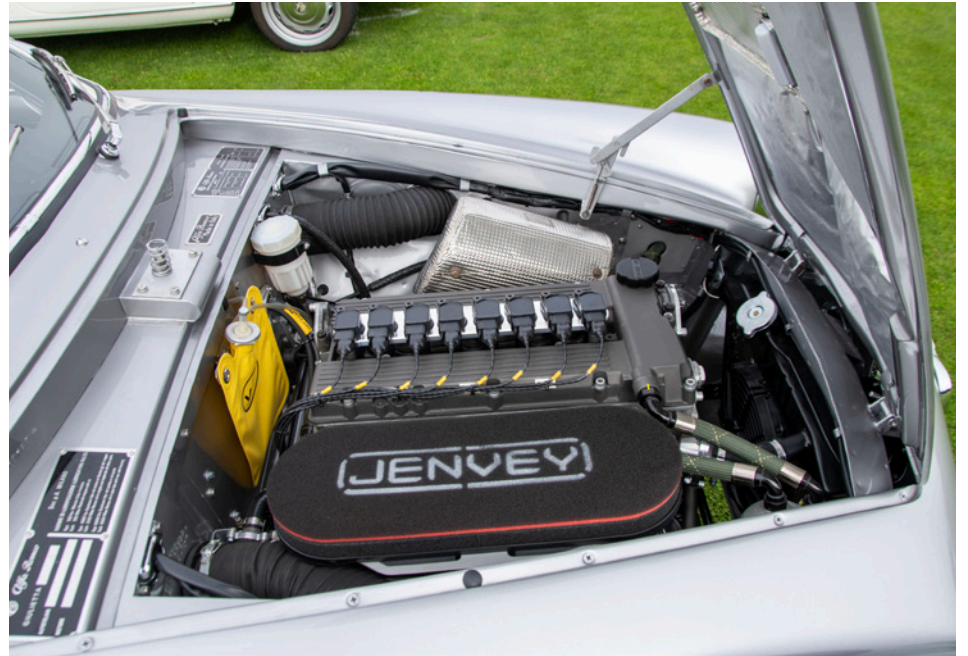
ARAer Ken Smith with his 1984 Spider and special shift knob (right)



Cisitalia 202



1961 Giulietta Sprint with a twin-spark engine transplant (right)



Tonale owned by ARAsers Jon & Ruth Gavin



Alex Pilibos gives Monika Spruch a ride
in his 1938 2300 B Mille Miglia

