



Monterey Car Week – A Return Journey

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Many years ago, we had the chance to attend Monterey Car Week, the biggest such gathering in the world, highlighted by the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. This year, we returned—and it was every bit as special.

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL & PORSCHE CLASSIC

We arrived on Monday afternoon and headed straight to the Porsche Classic event. By the time we got there - an hour into the program - the block was already packed. Local Porsche owners and enthusiasts filled the streets, proudly displaying their cars. The energy was contagious, a perfect welcome back.

We saw so many cool Porsches – both air- and water-cooled. Our favorites were the 356s. Among those there was a new EV company based out of England. Evertati is a British company that specializes in converting iconic classics into electric vehicles (EVs). They take donor cars like the Porsche 911, rebuild them, and resell them at \$300k +

DAY 2 – CARMEL & AUTOMOBILIA

The next day took us to Carmel-by-the-Sea for Concours for a Cause, a free charity event with a wonderful mix of classic and modern cars. After strolling Ocean Avenue, we enjoyed lunch, then walked down to the beach to relax on the white sand under the California sun.

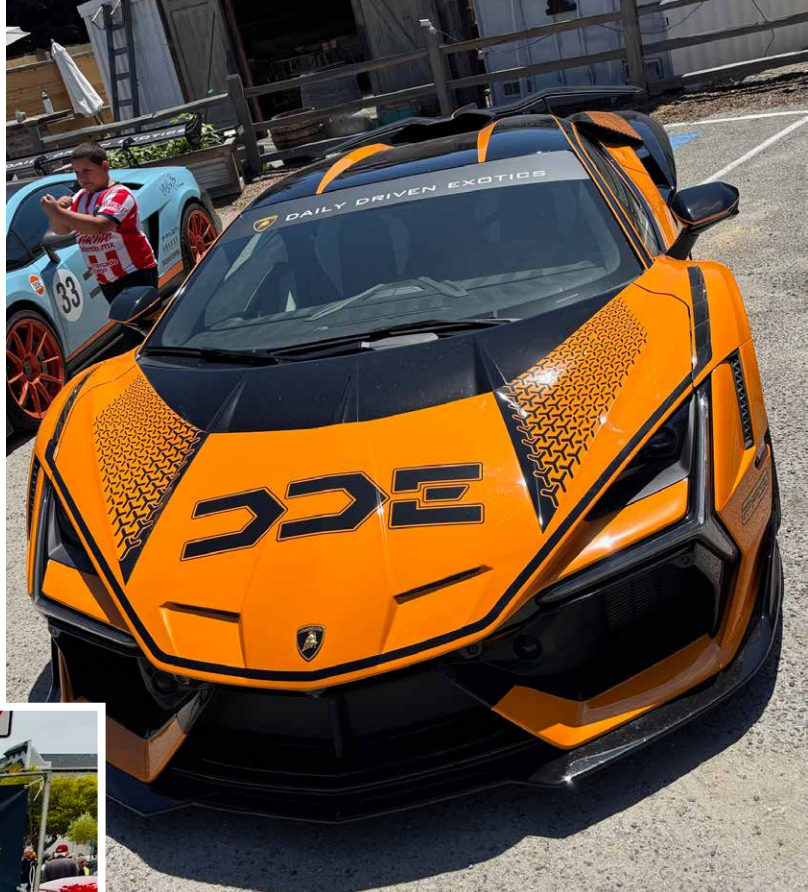
Later, we visited Automobilia in Seaside, a treasure trove of car-related art, posters, books, and collectibles. The day ended with a long walk along Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey, continuing to Pacific Grove just in time for a spectacular sunset.

DAY 3 – ASTON MARTINS & MOTOLUX

Back on Ocean Avenue, we discovered a

grand display of Aston Martins. Seeing so many models together reminded us why this marque's design remains timeless—elegant, refined, and unmistakably a gentleman's car.

One of our favorite traditions - The Little Car Show – stages in downtown Pacific Grove. It's a charming, free event, featuring small-engine classics of every kind: vintage minis, micros, electrics, steam-powered cars, and other wonderfully arcane creations. We easily spent 2 - 3 hours strolling the streets, chatting with proud owners who were more than happy to share stories about their quirky machines. It's a different vibe from the big-ticket shows, more



personal and full of character, and always leaves us smiling. Street parking was easy but a bit further away.

That evening, we attended the exclusive Motolux event, where million-dollar supercars were displayed alongside private jets and helicopters. From exquisite food to live music and dancing, it was an unforgettable night.

DAY 4 – PEBBLE BEACH TOUR & FERRARI IN CARMEL

We woke early for the Pebble Beach Tour d'Elegance. Cars began lining Portola Road by 7:00 a.m., departed at 9:30, and returned around noon after a scenic drive through Pebble Beach.

From there, we explored Concours Village (open





Thursday through Saturday), a vibrant hub filled with manufacturer displays, test drives, and luxury showcases. Here we bought cool jackets and a vest from the Pebble Beach store. Parking isn't bad here on Thursday, and it's free. Don't pay money at the entrance to 17 mile drive. Tell the guard you are here for the car event.

Meanwhile traffic stretches for miles. Carmel hosted two major free events: the Ferrari Owners Club Concours - seven blocks filled with Ferraris and Italian motorcycles, drawing massive crowds and hours of traffic delays—and the Prancing Ponies Women's Car Show, featuring an inspiring lineup

of women-owned hypercars, and classics. It took three hours in the morning to get to this event if you didn't come out from Concours Village. And of course, parking was a huge issue. Many spectators ended up leaving their cars off-site and shuttling in.



DAY 5 – ASTON DRIVE & WERKS REUNION

The morning highlight was the Aston Martin Driving Experience. Despite battling rush-hour traffic, the payoff came on a twisting canyon road. I pushed the car hard, and it delivered beautifully—precise, composed, and thrilling.

On the way back to Monterey we passed by The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering - better known simply as The Quail. It's a high-end car show at Quail Lodge & Golf Club in Carmel Valley. It's all about rare vintage cars and motorcycles, mixed with great food and a relaxed garden-party vibe. Lottery system, and expensive. Parking, of course, had sold out months ago. The only available spots were nearly a mile away, going for \$100 each. We just laughed, shook our heads, and kept driving. Our humble rental Toyota didn't quite belong alongside

the supercars lined up in those premium lots, their owners happily paying for the privilege. It would have been worth it to catch a glimpse of those rare classics and wild supercars from the outside, but oh, well - there's always next year.

Later, we attended Werks Reunion Monterey, the ultimate Porsche gathering. With hundreds of Porsches - from rare air-cooled icons to the latest models—the show was a feast for enthusiasts. Parking wasn't easy (free if you could find it, \$40 otherwise), but the experience was worth every moment.

That evening, we wandered through RM Sotheby's Monterey Auction, taking in an astonishing lineup of cars destined for new owners. Every car telling its own story, from vintage legends to modern icons. We wrapped up the day with a delicious dinner by the water on Cannery Row, the perfect way to wind down after so much excitement.



DAY 6 – FAREWELL & LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday is always one of the biggest days of Monterey Car Week, featuring Concorso Italiano (the largest Italian car gathering in the world) and the legendary Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. We've attended both in the past, but chose not to this year—knowing we'll be back.

There were many more events we didn't catch—like Exotics on Broadway, Legends of the Autobahn, and of course racing at Laguna Seca, but that's the magic of Monterey. No one can see it all in one trip, and that leaves us with plenty to look forward to next year. I hope this helps you navigate such a huge gathering. Book your stay early to avoid high costs, and leave the fancy cars at home - parking is scarce. ■

