



Tail Lights

Behind the Rope at the Greenwich Concours

The Greenwich Concours d'Elegance in Connecticut has always been a must-attend event for me, but this year's edition outdid all previous ones. I've always drooled over the amazing cars that come to the beautiful waterfront setting, though joining the ranks of the owners of these expensive cars always seemed out of reach.

It turns out it helps to know the right people, because my wife Susie and I were invited to show our 1959 Porsche 356A cabriolet on Sunday. We took advantage of the opportunity by also entering Friday's "Grand Tour." Although Connecticut has gotten pretty built-up, Vintage Rallies managed to put together several routes with minimal traffic lights and stops. The most memorable moment of the tour happened shortly after we departed on the first leg from the Bruce Museum in Greenwich. While closely following a yellow Porsche 911 Targa (whose driver shall remain unnamed), we suddenly found ourselves on the wrong side of a complex roundabout, surrounded by blaring horns. We escaped unscathed with a good story to share over lunch.

First stop was the Malcolm Pray Achievement Center to view the Malcolm Pray Classic Car Collection and admire some of the gorgeous vehicles accompanying us on tour. Malcolm Pray started as a car salesman who ended up with six successful car dealerships, which he sold in 1999 to create the Achievement Center. The Center still uses its extensive collection of exotic vintage cars to incentivize young people with the desire to be successful. If you're in the area, make sure to stop by.

The second leg took us on a very pleasant, almost circular drive to Bernard's in Ridgefield for a splendid lunch at the restaurant that is regularly chosen as the best in Connecticut. It was a great opportunity to meet some of our co-tourers, such as Dan and Lisa Johnson, who brought their amazing "Phunkie '32" hot rod. After visiting the nearby Aldrich Museum of Art, most participants stopped by a Greenwich mansion. The last leg ended at the location of the concours on the waterfront, Roger Sherman Baldwin Park in Greenwich, for a cocktail party and a sneak preview of Bonhams' weekend auction.

The real show is a two-day affair, starting with Saturday's Concours Americana, followed by the Concours International on Sunday. Special classes of Zagato, Bentley, Arnolt, Super Cars and Orphan marques remained over both days.

Sunday was my chance to get on the big stage. The Friday Grand Tour was totally enjoyable, the Americana day was really cool, but Sunday was International day and my Porsche 356A cabriolet was going to join the big boys in the big arena.

The day started out gloomy, with thick fog and the threat of midday rain. My 50-minute drive from New Jersey was uneventful, albeit chilly with the top down. I was ushered to the Porsche



Grand Tour participants got a look inside the Malcolm Pray Classic Car Collection.



Our 1959 Porsche 356A Cabriolet on display at the Concours International.

corral, ending up next to two pristine 356 Carreras—which instantly brought me back down to earth. Completely out-classed, I quickly realized there was no award forthcoming.

The Zagatos, Arnolts, and Super Cars were still there, but the American cars had been replaced by exquisite imports. Fog and clouds gave way to beautiful partly cloudy skies, and the grounds filled with enthusiasts. This is clearly one of the top concours events in the world, and one that every enthusiast should add to their bucket list. **Kobus Reyneke** 356

