

It happens in Romania too

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Abstract

The elegance contests of the ancient car holders are usually attracting a large number of car lovers and a great audience eager to admire the masterpieces of car builders of all time. The “Federation Internationale des Vehicules Anciens”. had always expressed its willing to cultivate public interest for historical vehicles all around the world. All elegance contest proved to be true social events and are sometimes a place where you can meet local personalities and even may notice fashion trends. Let us find out why “our jewels have wheels.”

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A true passion that rebuilds, that is enduring, that “drives” you...

Concours d’elegance or Concorso d’eleganza are opportunities for world historic automobile lovers to expose in bright highlights some exceptional technical items in the field of auto universe that come to the public attention after laborious restoration work. To understand how much passion have all the owners of an ancient car I must say that such elegance contests as well as other kind of meetings of the car holders are usually attracting a large number of car lovers and a great audience eager to admire the masterpieces of car builders of all time. Ancient car clubs are engaged in rallies and raids, inside their own countries and on the whole continent. The

meetings of the car owners and remanufacturers of ancient vehicles became main events on their agenda as well as of the large audience they can gather. I witness some 10 years ago the arrival for a 2 days rest, of a group of almost 20 British ancient cars all prewar models, on their route to China!!! I think that the desire of this group to reach such a far destination speaks for itself and one may say that we are talking about a crazy love for all these masterpieces on four wheels.

It is to underline that the specific International federation, a real world club of all ancient cars owners use to make a remarkable lobby to the state authorities and enjoys a great reputation making it able to impose legal regulations for historic cars community protection and preservation of ancient vehicles considered today as part of the universal technical patrimony. Such global efforts to protect this community are concentrated in the hands of FIVA - Federation Internationale des Vehicules Anciens –established in 1966 and located in Bruxelles. Due to the high position occupied by FIVA , today no new European directive connected to ancient vehicles is adopted before it was checked by this body. The Federation had always expressed its willing to cultivate public interest for historical vehicles all around the world.

The elegance contest represent the corollary of the efforts paid by the owners and remanufacturers to keep the ancient vehicles in their best shape. During last years all elegance contest proved to be true social events and are sometimes a place where you can meet local personalities and even may notice fashion trends.

The Sinaia Concour d'elegance 2013

Well, in Romania too, such Concours d'elegance are successfully held. This year during 28-29 th of June on Sinaia royal estate Peles, under the high patronage of HM King Mihai I of Romania took place the III rd edition of Sinaia Concours d'elegance. This events recall the 1934 Contest of elegance launched by A.C.R.R. (The Romanian Royal Car Club established 1904) and held again in 1935. The first time in history of Romania such events took place in 1929, the same year when in Italy near the lake of Como the famous Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este was born. At the 2013 Sinaia Concours d'elegance the grand prize was won by a Dual Ghia L 6.4 car built in 1963 which is the 13 th one of the total of 27 cars ever produced. Another 7 trophies were afforded to each group of vehicles attending the Contest-prewar and classic categories, both with three groups coupe/sedan/cabriolet and Romanian built cars and criteria were focused on outer look , originality and of course on the elegance .

Romanian Concours d'elegance are planned and organized according to the European model by the most important ancient cars club of the country, Retromobil Club of Romania (R.C.R. - established 1998) presided by Mr. Bogdan Coconoiu. Retromobil Club Romania is a member of FIVA and its agenda is yearly populated by almost 25 different manifestations-exhibitions, elegance contest, regularity rallies, circuit races, raids, symposiums. Today the Club membership counts for more than 540 and more than 1500 ancient vehicles were certified as historic ones. From strictly historic point of view Retromobil Club Romania is proud to register some very rare cars starting with 1903. Some of this vehicles show outstanding technical features that can make them able to compete with nowadays cars in what the driving comfort and performance are

concerned. There are a large variety of auto brands starting with those that already disappeared- Adler, Aero, Borgward , Hanomag, Berliet – and other that continued their existence in Europe, USA, Japan - Ford, Rolls Royce, Mercedes, Toyota, Volkswagen, Dacia, Fiat, Jaguar, a.s.o. A special attention is focused to vehicles built in Romania, some of them being almost out of sight due to the state measures to stimulate the renewal of national car stock. Retromobil Club Romania is offering technical assistance to all people having an ancient car or to those thinking to posses one. Retromobil is the official body accredited by Romanian State to issue the historic vehicle Certificate of Authenticity.

The Retromobil Club activity under the motto “our jewels have wheels” develops from April to October, most of the gathering being annual events. They are organized in localities of historic or touristic interest and where 23 regional branches of Retromobil are located .

I invite you now to admire some of the automobiles awarded at the Sinaia Concour d’elegance 2013, and also suggest all of you to visit the Retromobil official site retromobil.ro and web page facebook.com/clubretromobil for other interesting details of its activity.

I would be really happy, as a member of this Club, to find even one of you becoming an ancient car fan and just thinking to own such an automobile in the future.

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(Photos)

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