



**TWO RACING CARS FROM INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR
SPEEDWAY MUSEUM HIGHLIGHT “ONE TIME ONLY”
10-PLUS LITER CLASS AT
PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS d’ELEGANCE**

***1904 Premier and 1907 Itala Headed to
Aug. 19 Vintage Car Show along Carmel Bay***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. – (August 7, 2007) – If size matters, then the cars competing in the 10-plus liter racing class at the Aug. 19 Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, matter most of all. The class for cars with massive engines displacing more than 610 cu. in. (10 liters) is just the latest one-year-only class developed by the Concours to tell the story of otherwise forgotten pieces of automotive history; in this case, early efforts to increase speed with very large engines.

“These giant racers are survivors of a brief era in motor sport when race car builders first sought to increase horsepower by increasing engine size,” said Sandra Kasky Button, chairman of the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance. “Eventually, the engine size had to be limited because some of the engines were just too powerful for the times.”

Engines were first limited indirectly with maximum weight rules for the cars, then with fuel usage restrictions and finally by directly limiting engine size.

Two of the heavyweight cars are headed to the Concours from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway’s Hall of Fame Museum: A 1904 Premier designed for the builder of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and a 1907 Itala with one of the largest racing engines ever created. The Premier was created in Indianapolis so Carl Fisher, the Speedway’s founder, could run at the inaugural Vanderbilt Cup Race on Long Island.

“Fisher built this car to compete in some big races,” said Bill Spoerle, curator of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum, “but the car was illegal because it was too heavy. Then he drilled the holes to try to make it legal. As far as I know, the car has never before left the state of Indiana.”

The Premier weighed in at 2,320 lbs., above the maximum weight for the Vanderbilt Cup, the most important of the early races in the United

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States. Although the pit crew drilled more than 470 holes in the car to reduce its weight, it was still 120 lbs. over the limit and not eligible for competition.

The Itala ran in the first United States Grand Prix in 1907, when Grand Prix racing was open to all comers and long before the Formula One era began in 1950.

The massive Itala, produced in Turin, Italy, weighed 4,000 lbs., and used a gargantuan 900 cubic inch (14.75 liters) displacement, four-cylinder engine to provide more speed. To put this in perspective, today's Indy 500® racers have an engine displacement of 213.5 cubic inches (3.5 liters).

The Itala which boasts one of the largest displacement racing engines ever built, was driven to numerous European victories. Unusually, the car is a right-hand drive, two-seater that sometimes ran with fenders on dirt surfaces to prevent mud from getting into the driver's eyes.

“Neither of these remarkable vehicles bears any resemblance to the svelte racing cars of today and both are air-cooled,” said Kasky.

George F. Wingard, of Eugene, Ore., has been collecting these massive cars for many years and he wrote *Real Wolves in Sheep's Clothing*, a book about the giant racers. This year, he's entering a 1904 Fiat 75 Alessio race car and a 1911 Fiat S74 race car in the Concours.

A 1905 Panhard et Levassor Type Q, a 1908 Mors and a 1908 Napier will also be on hand.

First conducted in 1950, the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance® (www.pebblebeachconcours.net) has grown to become the world's premier celebration of the automobile. Only the most beautiful and rare cars are invited to appear on the famed 18th fairway of Pebble Beach Golf Links®, and connoisseurs of art and style flock to see these masterpieces. Charitable donations raised by the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance® now total over \$9 million. Related events include the Pebble Beach Tour d'Elegance™ presented by Rolex, Pebble Beach RetroAuto™, and the Pebble Beach® Auction presented by Gooding & Company. The 2007 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance®, featuring Aston Martin and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg group, will be held on Sunday, August 19.

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