

# Le Belle Macchine d'Italia '07

The annual showcase of Italian beauty and power in the Poconos



WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK J. McCOURT

Calling all Tifosi in the Northeast—your Italian car and motorcycle celebration is here with the Poconos' Le Belle Macchine d'Italia. Hemmings had the opportunity to attend the 2007 event's Concorso, held on Saturday, June 22, at the majestic Skytop Lodge in Skytop, Pennsylvania. Honoring the Maserati 3500 G.T.'s 50th anniversary, as well as the 35th anniversary of Lamborghini's Countach, the Concorso was the first day of the annual three-day event, and it lived up to its name: "The beautiful machines of Italy."

The Lodge's side lawn was filled with sports cars of all stripes, from everyman Alfa Romeo and Fiat 124 Spiders to Italian/American hybrids like Iso, Bizzarrini and De Tomaso and thoroughbreds like Ferrari, Lamborghini and Mase-

rati. A number of special sub-events took place within the show, including national and annual meets for groups like the Lamborghini Owners Club, the Maserati Club International and the Iso Bizzarrini Owners Club.

Everyone knows that, in addition to being beautiful, Italian cars are fun to drive, so "Italian Cars," the group that organizes this event, makes special arrangements to allow owners, club members and invited guests to take their cars out on the track at the Pocono International Raceway. Sunday and Monday's Driving Event offers owners of pre-approved sports cars and vintage vehicles the opportunity to hone their skills with instruction from the professionals at Stockcar Racing Experience.

The 22nd Le Belle Macchine d'Italia will be taking place at the Skytop Lodge from June 20 through the 23rd, 2008. Announced highlights of this show include Lamborghini's "Ultimate Ride of a Lifetime" rides for charity on the Pocono Raceway with famed factory test driver Valentino Balboni, as well as celebrations of that automaker's 45th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of Maserati's "birdcage." Online registration forms and a listing of fees are available at [www.italiancarsatpocono.com](http://www.italiancarsatpocono.com).

An additional event is scheduled for Daytona, Florida, appropriately called Le Belle Macchine d'Italia - Sud (South), to be held from November 13 through the 16th, 2008. Mark your calendars now! Go to [www.italiancarsatdaytona.com](http://www.italiancarsatdaytona.com).





Automotive sculpture: Form followed function beautifully in the Pininfarina-designed short-wheelbase Ferrari 250 GT berlinetta.



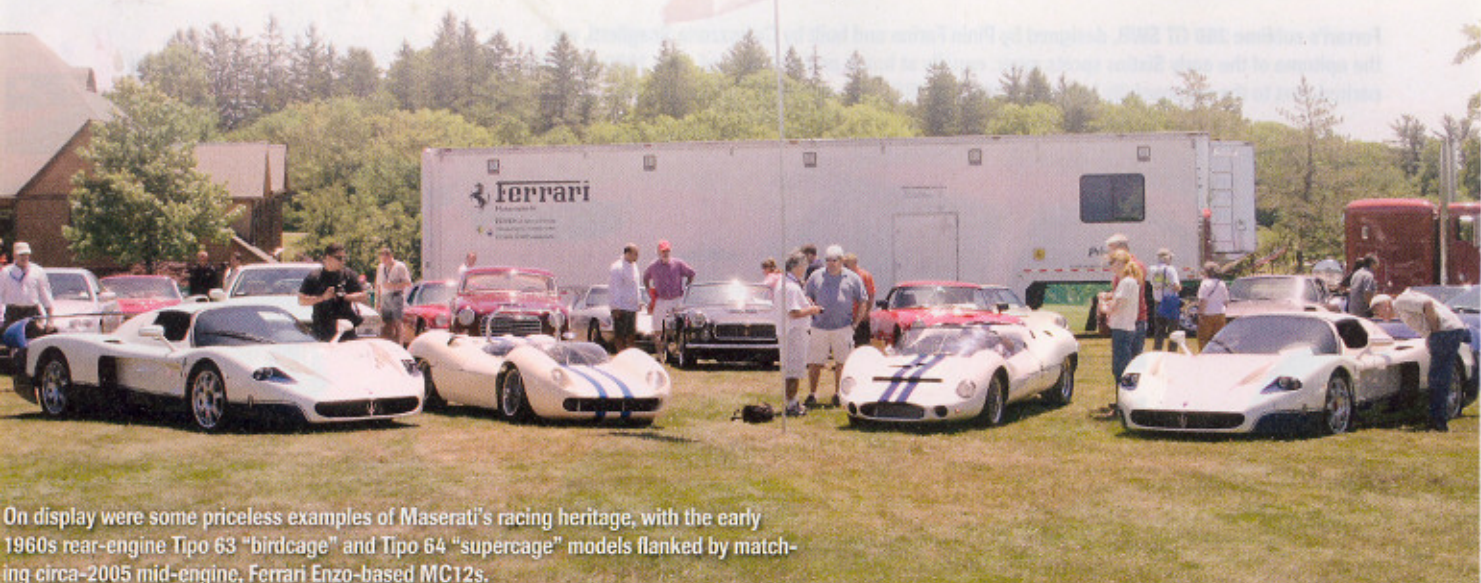
This 255hp V-8-powered 1984 Lamborghini P350 Jalpa belongs to Greg Balcerak of Rockville Centre, New York; despite being a daily driver, it has traveled only 16,000 miles in its 24 years.



This all-original 1981 Lancia Zagato, featuring a removable roof panel and folding soft rear window, is the daily driver of Montclair, New Jersey, resident Richard Lynn.



Cute as a bug and exceedingly rare was this 1970 Lombardi Grand Prix belonging to Haz Neuman of Whiteford, Maryland; the steel body two-seater rides on a rear-engine Fiat 850 sedan chassis and is powered by a 75hp, 1,013cc four-cylinder.



On display were some priceless examples of Maserati's racing heritage, with the early 1960s rear-engine Tipo 63 "birdcage" and Tipo 64 "supercage" models flanked by match-up circa-2005 mid-engine, Ferrari Enzo-based MC12s.





An exotic with classic beauty, this Michelotti-designed 1960 Maserati 3500 G.T. Spyder, with body by Carrozzeria Vignale, features a 220hp, double overhead-camshaft straight-six engine and belongs to Blake Stevenson of Stonington, Connecticut.



Only two of these Frua-built Maserati Quattroporte four-doors were built, with the first, the 1971 Paris/1972 Geneva auto show car going to Spain's King Juan Carlos, and the second, built in 1974, going to the Aga Khan; power comes from a 330hp, 4.7-liter V-8.



Largely forgotten today, the Bertone-designed Iso Lele was represented by this exclusive Marlboro edition, serial number 184, built specifically for Phillip Morris's 1973 season Formula 1 Iso Marlboro driver, Howden Ganley. It now belongs to Joe Corbacio of Hershey, Pennsylvania.



What's this, a French interloper at an Italian car show? Not quite—this svelte 1972 Peugeot 504 Cabriolet sports bodywork by Pininfarina, whose designs have graced many Peugeots through the years. This grand tourer belongs to Rick Stifel of Darnestown, Maryland.



Standing out in the sea of red paint were a small handful of colorful Ferrari 308s, which included cars in yellow, burgundy, gray, black, and this handsome *Verde Medio* example, a 1982 GTSi belonging to Barry Cross of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Ferrari's sublime 250 GT SWB, designed by Pinin Farina and built by Carrozzeria Scaglietti, was the epitome of the early Sixties sports racer, equally at home on track or road. This 1960 example, parked next to the purposefully beautiful 1956 500 TRC, was shown by Classic Coach.

