



1950–2020: An Unmatched Tradition of Automotive Excellence

Celebrating 70 Years with Cars at Pebble Beach



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Today We Remember How It All Began . . .

Phil Hill's Jaguar XK120 Retraces the Road to Its Historic First Victory

Seventy years back, on November 5, 1950, the first Pebble Beach Road Race took place — and the Pebble Beach Concours was born with it. To mark this historic event, we invited Derek Hill to retrace the old road race course driving the very same Jaguar XK120 that his father had driven to victory 70 years prior.

Mark Miller, who now owns that Jaguar, graciously loaned it to us. And thanks to our partnership with WeatherTech, we were able to record this moment and share it with you.

WATCH NOW



Phil Hill garners the overall win at the very first Pebble Beach Road Races. (Photograph by Julian P. Graham/Pebble Beach Company Lagorio Archives.)

Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance to Honor Its Historic Ties to Racing

70th Celebration to Feature Pebble Beach Road Race Winners

PEBBLE BEACH, CALIF. (November 5, 2020) — Phil Hill was forced to start well behind the pack seventy years back when the first race for the Pebble Beach Cup took place on the residential roads above what is now The Lodge at Pebble Beach. The clutch on his Jaguar XK120 had locked in the engaged position in a preliminary competition, and when he pushed the starter button on this occasion a large lurch forward was expected. Instead, nothing happened — and a push start was required. Twenty-five laps later, as the evening fog began to mix with billowing dust and flying gravel, Hill crossed the finish line in first place.

The date of that first Pebble Beach Road Race was November 5, 1950.

Amidst the racing, a small contingent of collector cars — participants in the first Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance — paraded down the start-finish straight.

"The Race itself was all so new," Hill said years later. "We were driving through this forest, with just a bunch of snow fencing and hay bales lining the road. It was a real road race, and I hadn't been in one before." Hill would go on to win the World Drivers Championship just over a decade later.

Three more drivers and four more cars would record overall wins in the Pebble Beach Road Races before the tree-lined course proved to be too dangerous and a new circuit would be built to host them at Laguna Seca beginning in 1957. But the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, which began in tandem

with the races and has continued on long after them, will gather all five of the winning cars at its 70th celebration, which is now scheduled for August 15, 2021.

“The history of the Pebble Beach Concours begins with the history of road racing on the West Coast of the United States, and we want to recognize that heritage when we come together for our 70th celebration,” said Concours Chairman Sandra Button. “We want to pay tribute to the people that founded this event and the cars that made their mark here.”

The overall winners of each of the annual Pebble Beach Road Races will be displayed on the 18th fairway of Pebble Beach Golf Links, alongside many past Best of Show winners from the Concours.

As previously announced, additional features and special classes will pay tribute to early electric cars, those coachbuilt by Pininfarina or powered by Miller, Porsche 917, Talbot-Lago Grand Sport, Iso Rivolta, and cars of the Carrera Panamericana.

For information or tickets to the 2021 Concours, or to make a donation to our Concours charities, please go to www.pebblebeachconcours.net.

*Just Five Cars Were Overall Winners — and All Are Returning to
Pebble Beach*



1950 Winner: 1950 Jaguar XK120 Roadster

Phil Hill drove his own Jaguar XK120 to victory in the very first Pebble Beach Road Race.



1951 & 1952 Winner: 1951 Allard J2

Bill Pollack won consecutive overall victories with this Allard in 1951 and 1952 — and he came close to a third win in 1953.



1953 Winner:
1953 Ferrari 250 MM Vignale Spyder

Hill garnered a second overall win at Pebble Beach in 1953, driving this Ferrari 250 MM.



1954 Winner: 1953 Ferrari 340 MM Vignale Spyder

Sterling Edwards, who was instrumental in founding the Pebble Beach Road Races, recorded a win in this Ferrari 340 MM in 1954.



1955 & 1956 Winner: 1955 Ferrari 750 Monza Scaglietti Spyder

This double winner scored a victory first in 1955 with Phil Hill at the wheel, then again in 1956 when driven by Carroll Shelby.

Photos of overall Pebble Beach Road Races winners courtesy of John Lamm Archives and Bob Brown.

Our apologies! We previously included an errant image.

RESERVE YOUR 2021 CONCOURS TICKETS

