

February 27, 2010

70 Historic Race Cars Tour Back Roads in 20th Running of California Mille April 26-29

Free Car Show and Mille Preview Atop Nob Hill April 25

The Lost Coast--rediscovered. The 15th visit to Honeydew (population 73). The majesty of the Avenue of the Giants. These are among the highlights of the 20th running of the California Mille, America's salute to Italy's famed Mille Miglia (thousand mile) open road race, scheduled for April 26-29, 2010.

Some 70 historic race cars that could have qualified for the original Italian event (1927-1957) will arrive at San Francisco's Nob Hill on Sunday, April 25, from England, Ireland, Switzerland, Canada, Colombia and Italy and a dozen American states. A free car show will introduce cars and drivers to the public from 11 AM until 5 PM. KSFO Radio's popular *KSFO Motoring* show with Brian Douglas will broadcast from in front of the Fairmont Hotel from 10-11 AM.

Monday morning, April 26, the Mille cars will depart for California Highway 1 and little-known back roads traversing Tomales, Point Arena, Boonville, Comptche, Glen Ellen, Calistoga, Oakville, Ukiah, Honeydew, Ferndale, Mendocino and Nicasio. The Mille will stop briefly in Mill Valley where Mayor Stephanie Molton-Peters will rename the city (for the day) *Mille Valley*. The 20th anniversary drive concludes in Sonoma on Thursday, April 29, with a free car show starting about 4 PM at the Lodge at Sonoma on Broadway at Leveroni and Napa Roads.

The California Mille was conceived after organizer Martin Swig drove the revived Mille Miglia from Brescia to Rome to Brescia in 1982. "Being a part of this historic event

got my motoring juices flowing," said Swig, who persuaded the Italian Mille organizers to authorize an American version of their drive---not as a race but as a *fast tour*.

"Northern California looks more Italian than Italy," says Swig, "and it didn't take much thought to realize that our state was perfect for the re-creation of a great motoring event." Others clearly felt the same. When news of the California Mille reached drivers of older Alfas, beautiful Bentleys of the past, and historic Lancias, Jaguars and Mercedes-Benz, more than 50 signed up for the inaugural California Mille drive.

Since then, "auto season" has been officially launched each Spring with a Mille drive heading north or south from San Francisco with the objective of discovering little-known roads, time-capsule towns, and the best dining available. The 2010, 20th anniversary Mille will be no different. "We'll be re-visiting areas that have been favorites with our drivers over the years--the fantastic Lost Coast (called "California's least-developed coast line"), Honeydew (where the same bearded old-timers seem to snooze on the same bench in front of the Honeydew Country Store on Mattole Road, and the Avenue of the Giants with redwoods even older than our cars," said Swig.

A video first seen on some one hundred PBS-TV can be accessed along with other information on: www.californiamille.com.

Cars that will be participating in the 2010 drive include:

Year Car Make & Model

1961 Alfa Romeo 2000 Spider
1957 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint Veloce
1952 Allard J2X
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1957 Alfa Romeo 1900 Super
1939 Jaguar SS-100
1937 Bentley
1936 HRG LeMans
1952 Lancia Aurelia B20S

1952 Siata Daina Gran Sport
1957 Alfa Romeo Sprint Veloce Lt. Wt.
1933 Alfa Romeo 6C 1750GS
1953 Siata 208S
1957 Porsche Speedster
1957 AC Ace-Bristol Zagato
1958 Mercedes-Benz 300SL
1956 Jaguar XK140MC ots
1927 Bentley
1956 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing
1959 Alfa Romeo Giulia Spider
1955 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint
1952 Jaguar XK120 ots
1940 Buick Century
1957 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider
1956 Jaguar XK140MC SE
1952 Ferrari 212 Barchetta
1957 Chevrolet Corvette
1955 Jaguar XK140 SE
1955 Austin-Healey 100M
1957 Porsche Speedster
1937 Lancia Aprilia
1957 Jaguar XK150
1927 Lancia Lambda
1953 Ferrari 340MM
1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing
1957 AC Aceca - Bristol coupe
1955 Porsche Continental
1956 Alfa Romeo 1900 CSS
1955 Alfa Romeo 750C Berlina
1956 Alfa Romeo 1900SS
1956 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint
1957 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider
1952 Jaguar XK120 Speciale
1957 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider Veloce
1954 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing
1954 Jaguar XK120 ots
1960 Porsche 356
1952 Ferrari 212 Europa Vignale cabriolet
1957 Jaguar XK140MC
1934 Lagonda M45
1955 Fiat Abarth Zagato 750
1950 Talbot-Lago T26
1956 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider Normale
1956 AC Ace - Bristol
1958 Ferrari 250GT LWB
1957 Porsche 356GT
1952 MG-TD
1939 BMW 328

1958 Alfa Romeo Giulietta
1953 Alfa Romeo 1900CS
1957 Chevrolet Corvette
1958 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider
1927 Lancia Lambda
1927 Alfa Romeo 1500CS
1955 Lancia Aurelia B20S
1954 Maserati A6GCS
1957 AC Ace-Bristol
1957 Lancia Aurelia B24S

A detailed road plan and day-by-day itinerary will be announced shortly.

The 20th Anniversary of the California Mille is presented by Chopard Watches, The Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, The Wines of Lodi, Haute Living Magazine, The Nob Hill Gazette, British Motors, Sports Car Market Magazine, KSFO-560 , and The San Francisco Examiner.

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