Arizona Biltmore Hosts Expanded, Supercharged 2nd Annual Arizona Concours d’Elegance

PHOENIX, December 11, 2014: The personal roadster of Frank Lloyd Wright, famous creations celebrating the 100-year history of a famous Italian design house, champion race car drivers, special feature events with racing legends and much more will all be part of an expanded second annual Arizona Concours d’Elegance on January 11, 2015. The historic Arizona Biltmore will again be the host hotel for this premier automotive event.

A highlight of the show at the iconic resort will be an exhibition of The Cars of Frank Lloyd Wright, and among the vehicles will be his 1937 AC 16/80 “Ace” roadster (pictured here, with Wright and wife Olgivanna wearing sporty fabric helmets and goggles, in a photo taken in 1948 in Phoenix). Wright was not only one of America’s most celebrated architects but also a dedicated car enthusiast who is being featured in tribute to his influence on the landmark design of the Arizona Biltmore.

The Cars of Carrozzeria Ghia, honoring the 100th anniversary of the famous Turin design house, will feature the exotic 1954 Fiat 8V, a unique and spectacular example of the coachbuilder’s artistry with an elegant coupé body unlike any other, and two entries by world-famous Petersen...

A special entry in the Pierce-Arrow class will be one of the most elegant and evocative automobiles of the 1930s classic era, a rare 1933 Pierce-Arrow Silver Arrow. Only five were built and this is one of three known survivors. Introduced at the New York Auto show in January 1933, its revolutionary appearance stunned the crowd with what seemed to be an exciting vision of the future.

One of the greatest champions of auto racing, Sir Stirling Moss OBE, will be an honored guest at the second annual Arizona Concours d’Elegance. The British racing legend, who competed in vintage racing events until just a few years ago, is an active octogenarian who travels the world as an acclaimed diplomat for historic motorsports.

Two new featured events this year will be held the day before the Concours, January 10, in the Arizona Biltmore’s beautiful Grand Ballroom:

- The Phoenix Automotive Press Association (PAPA) will present a panel of collector-car experts who will discuss the trends of today’s market and what cars will get the most attention at the 2015 RM Auction at the Arizona Biltmore, which draws thousands of collectors and the most exotic and sought after supercars each year. The Arizona Concours d’Elegance will kick off the famous collector-car auction week in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area. The Biltmore marks its 16th consecutive year of auction week involvement in 2015.

- At a special panel discussion entitled Elegance at Speed, three top designers will speak about race car design over the decades, including F1 and Indy Cars designer Nigel Bennett; Peter Brock, best-known for designing the Cobra Daytona Coupe for Carroll
Shelby’s team to compete with at Le Mans; and Kip Wasenko, former director of design for GM’s Cadillac Division and designer of Cadillac's Le Mans Prototype (LMP). The forum will be moderated by former race driver Lyn St. James, the second woman to race the Indianapolis 500 and the first selected rookie of the year in 1992.

Ninety rare and exceptional automobiles are entered in the 2015 Arizona Concours d’ Elegance and will be displayed on the verdant and manicured inner lawns of the legendary Arizona Biltmore. In addition to The Cars of Frank Lloyd Wright, The Cars of Carrozzeria Ghia and Pierce-Arrow, pre-1965 competition Ferraris also will be a specially featured class. Judges will select winners in 17 concours classes as well as a Best of Show. Other special awards will also be presented. Well-known veteran Concours judge John Carlson will again serve as chief judge. Keith Martin, publisher of Sports Car Market and American Car Collector magazines, will return as the event’s host and emcee, joined in 2015 by Donald Osborne, veteran collector-car writer and commentator.

The second annual Arizona Concours d’Elegance again will be a charity event benefitting Make-A-Wish Arizona, the founding chapter of the national organization that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. www.wishaz.org.

Concours d’Elegance tickets are $75. Tickets may be purchased at the event or in advance at www.ArizonaConcours.com.

For more information and hotel reservations, call the Arizona Biltmore at 800-950-0086 or 602-955-6600, or book online at www.arizonabiltmore.com.

Concours d’Elegance, a French phrase meaning a “competition of elegance,” dates back to 17th century Paris when the aristocracy would parade horse-drawn carriages in the parks during summer weekends and holidays. As carriages gave way to automobiles, the events evolved into competitions among owners of prestigious cars. The Arizona Concours d’Elegance is modeled after the great Concours of Pebble Beach in California and Villa d’Este in Italy.

The Arizona Concours d’Elegance is a not-for-profit corporation registered with the State of Arizona, with federal 501(c)(3) status.

About the Arizona Biltmore
The Arizona Biltmore has been an Arizona landmark since opening in 1929, when it was crowned the “Jewel of the Desert.” The legendary Grand Dame remains one of the most recognized resorts in the world for its distinctive Frank Lloyd Wright architectural style, luxurious facilities, and storied history as a playground of the rich and famous. Nestled on 39 acres at the foot of the Phoenix Mountain Preserve, the legendary resort
offers: 740 guest accommodations; a 22,000-square-foot spa offering an extensive menu of natural healing treatments and restorative therapies; a fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment; eight swimming pools including the spectacular Paradise Pool with its a 92-foot-long water slide; two 18-hole golf courses; and six restaurants and lounges, including signature Wright’s at the Biltmore serving classic favorites reinvented for today’s tastes, the stylish Wright Bar with patio fire pits and views of majestic Squaw Peak, popular Frank & Albert’s preparing Arizona comfort food, The Café casual bistro, and the poolside Cabana Club with a swim-up bar. The Arizona Biltmore is a Waldorf Astoria Resort®.

About Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts
Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts is a portfolio of 24 landmark destinations, each being a true reflection of their surroundings in the world’s most sought after locations. Unified by their inspirational environments and unparalleled guest service, Waldorf Astoria creates unique authentic moments through the delivery of True Waldorf Service. Personal concierges deliver unparalleled, bespoke service from the moment a guest books through check out. From signature culinary excellence, 12 world-class golf courses and 23 rejuvenating spas, Waldorf Astoria offers luxuriously appointed accommodations and unforgettable experiences. Waldorf Astoria is a global luxury brand of Hilton Worldwide with development plans to add 12 new hotels to the brand. Experience Waldorf Astoria by booking at www.waldorfastoria.com or learn more about this expanding portfolio by visiting http://news.waldorfastoria.com.