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**FROM FOUNTAINS TO FERRARIS –**

**THE 2014 CONCOURS OF ELEGANCE**

**AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE**

**IS THE ULTIMATE MOTORING GARDEN PARTY**

* **The 2014 Concours of Elegance being held in the Grand Fountain Gardens at Hampton Court Palace from 5-7 September**
* **The Concours of Elegance will gather 60 of the rarest cars from around the world, joined by around 700 other fine and desirable motor cars**
* **Luxury retail shopping with Royal Warrant Holders and hand-picked partners**
* **A sumptuous selection of hospitality and dining solutions on offer for exquisite entertaining**
* **The Concours of Elegance remains a major fund raising event for charity, with this year’s target set to exceed the £250,000 collected at the 2013 event, staged at St James’s Palace**
* **Advance entry tickets now on sale from £25 per person, including Palace access**

Since the inaugural Concours of Elegance of 2012, held within the private grounds of Windsor Castle to mark HRH Her Majesty the Queen’s diamond jubilee of reign, the award-winning Concours has set a new global benchmark for a classic car concours event.

The second Concours of Elegance, held to equal acclaim at the Royal Palace of St James, London, in 2013, improved upon the exceptionally high standard set at Windsor Castle, and this year, the Concours once again retains its Royal Palace connections, moving to the spectacular surroundings of Hampton Court Palace, near London, from 5-7 September.

Sixty of the highest calibre rare and significant cars have been painstakingly selected and invited to the Concours of Elegance at Hampton Court Palace, to be joined by 700 of the very best cars from a wide variety of leading car clubs, as well as the very latest bespoke sports cars and luxury models from a number of prestigious car manufacturers, creating the ultimate motoring summer garden party in a historic and uniquely-British setting.

This September’s Concours of Elegance will dramatically tell the story of the motor car through each of the carefully selected Concours vehicles. From the pioneering days of the horseless carriage in the late 19th Century – perfectly illustrated by the confirmed participation of an ultra-rare 1896 Lutzmann - right through to the very latest state-of-the-art 200 mph+ Ferrari LaFerrari ‘hypercar’, all 60 exceptional Concours cars – many of them never seen before in this country – will grace the Grand Fountain Gardens on the East side of the historic 17th Century Royal Palace at Hampton Court.

The majority of historically important and sought-after car marques will be represented at the Concours of Elegance. Ranging from Alfa Romeo to Zagato, visitors to the Hampton Court Palace Concours will be able to admire stunning examples of Rolls-Royce, Bugatti, Bentley, Hispano-Suiza, Ferrari, Packard, Aston Martin and Maserati, plus dozens of other fine marques, making this is an unmissible occasion for anyone who appreciates the inherent creative magnificence of great automobiles.

A taster of the exceptional cars already confirmed for the 2014 Concours of Elegance includes a stunning 1931 Alfa Romeo 6C 1750 ‘Flying Star’ with Touring coachwork, never before seen in the UK. A brace of significant and rare pre-war Mercedes-Benz models will also be present at Hampton Court Palace.

Supporting the Concours will be a display of up to 700 other desirable cars from all eras within the grounds of Hampton Court Palace on the Saturday and Sunday, displayed in a dedicated area, adjacent to the Concours, presented by a wide variety of car clubs and motor manufacturers.

For the first time, a Club Trophy, sponsored by AIG and supported by the Royal Automobile Club, will be presented to the very best car to have won its own car club’s concours event earlier in 2014, in recognition of the spirit and dedication of Car Club owners, and their support of the grass roots concours movement in the UK. A wide selection of other classic cars will also be displayed in a special ‘pre-1975 tax exempt’ parking area very close to the Palace.

The major prestige car clubs in the UK have been invited to send the winning cars from their own car clubs’ concours events along to Hampton Court Palace, to then be judged for the coveted Club Trophy. Ultimately the overall Club Trophy winner will automatically be one of the 60 select Concours cars to be entered into the line-up for the 2015 Concours of Elegance event, to be held at a British Royal Palace, yet to be announced.

Also new for 2014 is the Talking Concours, a live stage area for regular interviews and informal chats with interesting guest speakers, from the world of classic cars, motor sport and fashion.

The annual Concours of Elegance remains unique in being the UK’s only automotive event to enjoy an authentic and spectacular Royal Palace as its backdrop, with keen Royal motoring enthusiast HRH Prince Michael of Kent as the event’s Patron.

Given its strong Royal connections, fittingly the Concours is supported by members of the Royal Warrant Holders Association. The exclusive hospitality options and collect-on-the-day picnics at the event reflect this, and have been specifically designed to incorporate the services and products of Royal Warrant holders Mosimann’s, Pol Roger and Corney & Barrow.

A range of exclusive products from a number of Royal Warrant Association holders and luxury partners, including Collier & Dobson, Henry Poole & Co and William and Son, will be also displayed and available to purchase in a relaxed and stylish retail environment at the Concours of Elegance.

A key objective of the annual Concours of Elegance is to be a highly successful fundraising initiative, with the 2013 event at St James’s Palace raising in excess of £250,000. The charities set to benefit from the 2014 Concours of Elegance will be announced shortly.

The 2014 Concours of Elegance at Hampton Court Palace will be open to the public on Saturday 6 September and Sunday 7 September, with adult entry tickets available to purchase, strictly in advance only, from £25 per person, per day, including entry into Hampton Court Palace and its extensive grounds.

Tickets are available now on a first-come; first-served basis, and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are available now at the Concours of Elegance website (www.concoursofelegance.co.uk). Limited edition Concours of Elegance Posters and Concours of Elegance Souvenir Catalogues are also available.

**- Ends -**

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**For regular updates and ticket sales:**

For more information, advance ticket purchase details and regular Concours of Elegance updates, please visit [www.concoursofelegance.com](http://www.concoursofelegance.com/)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/concoursofelegance](http://www.facebook.com/concoursofelegance)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ConcoursUK](http://www.twitter.com/ConcoursUK)

**About the Concours of Elegance:**

Established in 2012, the inaugural Concours of Elegance was held within the private grounds of Windsor Castle to mark the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen’s reign. Organised by Thorough Events, the first Concours of Elegance set a new global benchmark for a classic car concours; winning prestigious awards in the process; unheard of for a ‘start-up’ event in its first year. The second Concours of Elegance was held in 2013 to equal fanfare and acclaim at the historic Royal Palace of St James in London. Only the highest caliber of cars are invited to the Concours of Elegance, event, with the rarest cars in the world, from all over the world, painstakingly selected by the Concours Steering Committee; a respected team of authoritative historic car experts. A key objective of the annual Concours of Elegance is to raise significant sums for charity, with the 2013 event at St James’s Palace generating in excess of £250,000.