

# Floridian Beauties

The Winter Haven Art Festival and European Car Show



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Central Florida in the middle of March is a wonderful place to be, especially if you own a sports car. The weather is ideal, making it the perfect place to enjoy the winter while cruising in your sporting European driving machine.

To set this show apart from all the other car shows that crowd the calendar, as its name implies it's held in conjunction with an art festival, right in the middle of downtown Winter Haven. The art show is held on the grounds of Central Park, where contemporary artists,

sculptors and jewelry artisans sell their one-of-a-kind creations. Surrounding the park is the car show, where the cars are parked along the closed-off streets, an arm's length away from all the arts and crafts tents.

Hosted by the Florida Suncoast M.G. Car Club, this show focuses primarily on pre-1989 European sports cars. Although the majority of the 80 cars on display were Austin-Healeys, MGs and Triumphs, there were several finely restored Porsches, Jaguars and Alfas, too, plus a pair of Sunbeams, an all-orig-

inal 1965 Volvo PV544 and two 308-series Ferraris. The 1948 Healey Westland that was driven across the United States back in the day by Donald Healey himself was on display as well.

The club's goal of making this one of the most significant and worthwhile winter car shows is already a reality. With its central location and perfect climate, this event has great potential. And while the cars are the stars, having all the various artists and food vendors on hand helps make it the rare type of show that the whole family can truly enjoy attending.



With none sold Stateside, it's a rare treat to see a Lea Francis. This 1950 2.5-liter Sports model belongs to Barry Alexander.



With so few around, it's always a welcome sight to see an Alfa Romeo GTV-6. This perfect silver example of 1984 vintage was brought in by Alfisti John Rady.



Bill Emerson, noted author and curator of The Healey Museum in Alton, Virginia, brought his famous 1948 Healey Westland.



Built for serious road holding, Ed McCarroll's 1969 Lotus Elan is fitted with gold-painted knock-off Panasperts and competition seats and shoulder harnesses.



Best of Show was awarded to this incredibly restored 1933 MG L1 Magna police car. Owned by Sarah and Bill Richey, it sported all the period-correct law enforcement accessories including spotlamp, siren and authentic "bobbie" hat.



With its understated gray exterior and racy looking Panasport wheels, this 1964 Sunbeam Imp is still powered by its original 875cc all-aluminum Coventry Climax four-cylinder engine. The Imp and the red 1967 Tiger alongside it are both owned by Carolyn and Nick Kintner from nearby Lakeland.



This stunning 1973 Alfa Romeo Montreal was a real crowd pleaser, as was the other Triumph 1800 Roadster in attendance, this one belonging to Alec Knight.



The Bernstein brothers brought their sexy looking Alfa Romeos for all to enjoy. The red 1988 Spider Veloce belongs to Howard, and the 1986 gold Spider is owned by Jim.



Several 356-model Porsches were in attendance, including this retina-searing bright yellow 1963 twin-grille coupe owned by Joe Veglucci. The gorgeous black 1956 356-A Speedster behind is owned by Michael Owen.



Mike Davis' deep red 1965 C convertible and the jet black 1964 356 SC owned by Terry Davis are two of the finest examples of the breed. Both cars, as well as all the other 356s, were restored to very high standards.



On behalf of our sister magazine, *Hemmings Sports & Exotic Car*, the Spirit of Craftsmanship Award was given to Ron Lasita and his 1959 Austin-Healey Sprite MKI.



These two outstanding MGA roadsters had crowds around them throughout the day. The 1957 British Racing Green beauty belongs to Rick Brown, while fellow M.G. enthusiast Mike Weatherby brought his red 1961 model.