

Mercedes gets public vote at Concours of Elegance

A rare alloy-bodied 300 SL was the favourite car of visitors to the Concours of Elegance at Hampton Court



The alloy-bodied 300 SL was the public's choice, as well as being judged the most historically significant car at the event

By Paul Hudson

3:31PM BST 23 Sep 2014

A rare alloy-bodied 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing has been voted the public choice by visitors to the annual Concours of Elegance at Hampton Court Palace.

The car is one of only 29 alloy-bodied Gullwings, the remainder of the production total of 1,400 having steel bodies. It was the 19th alloy 300 SL built, ordered by Italian gentlemen racer Dottore Alberico Cacciari, who raced it at every opportunity – it was the only alloy-bodied 300 SL to compete in the 1956 and 1957 Mille Miglias, with Cacciari driving.

The car appeared at the Concours of Elegance as it raced in 1956, with its '452' racing numbers, and original tool kit and factory-fitted luggage.

This Gullwing was also awarded the AIG Private Clients Award for the "most historically significant car".

Voting for the 2014 Concours of Elegance Public Choice was conducted by simply texting the entry number of a favoured concours car.

The overall winner was a Touring-bodied 1931 Alfa Romeo 6C 1750 'Flying Star', which made its concours debut in 1931 at the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este and its UK debut at this event.

It was selected by the 60 entrants of the concours cars at Hampton Court. This is how the event differs from more traditional events, which are decided by a panel of judges.

The dates and Royal Palace location for the 2015 Concours of Elegance will be announced shortly.

How we moderate

© Copyright of Telegraph Media Group Limited 2017