

PALM BEACH CAVALLINO CLASSIC XVII
returns to Palm Beach, Florida
at The Breakers Hotel, Moroso Motorsports Park, and Mar-a-Lago

The 17th Annual Palm Beach Cavallino Classic has successfully concluded, after basking in the warm tropical setting of Palm Beach, Florida at The Breakers Hotel, from January 22 to 27, 2008. This extraordinary meeting was primarily a six day convention for Ferrari owners and enthusiasts, with participants and their Ferraris attending from North and South America, Europe and Japan. Benefiting from the Palm Beach Cavallino Classic were two important charities, the Childrens Wish Foundation, and the American Council of the Blind Scholarship Fund.

The first major event of the convention was the four day track meet at Moroso Motorsports Park, just up the road in Jupiter, Florida. There were two private test days on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 22 and 23, limited to thirty drivers each, and this allowed them to enjoy this 2.3 mile track at their own pace. This also allowed the thirty five rigs to park and set up camp for the four days, each rig unloading some very impressive machinery. On Thursday and Friday, January 24 & 25, the regular track portion took place, with owners enjoying their Ferraris in one of two classes – GT for the regular street driver and Sport for the more experienced. Over 100 Ferraris were seen on track over four days, the happy drivers enjoying the company of like-minded friends in like-minded machinery.

Included in the Thursday and Friday portion was the Shell Ferrari Maserati Historic Challenge, sponsored by Ferrari and sanctioned by Grand-Am. Over forty older Ferraris in two classes – drum and disc brake – revived memories of days gone by, as their owners let them loose again in a race course setting. The racing was dynamic, with vintage Ferraris and Maseratis vying for the Florida Cup – the *Trofeo di Florida*.

The second major event was the Tour of Palm Beach, on Thursday, January 24. Up to 60 vintage, classic and modern street Ferraris drove through the lush avenues of Palm Beach and along the breezy coastal roads of the Atlantic Ocean. They left from The Breakers after a hearty lunch, and made stops at Ocean Ridge Park, Mar-a-Lago and The Chesterfield Hotel, with a destination at Jet Aviation for the Jet Reception.

Now the hottest ticket of the weekend, the “Le Bella Macchina” Jet Reception hosted 100 Ferraris arrayed on the tarmac at the entrance to the main hangar, with a dozen private jets on display behind. Along with the 550 Classic participants were nearly 3,000 guests of Jet Aviation and the aircraft sponsors. The neatest aircraft on display were the P-51 Mustang and the Sky Arrow, the latter designed by Sean O’Donnell so that it can be flown by a handicapped pilot. Among the Ferraris, the high point was the unveiling of the 430 Scuderia, with Ferrari North America President and CEO Maurizio Parlato giving a stirring presentation. Part of the evening was the Peoples Choice voting for the favorite Ferrari on the tarmac, and the winner was a worthy candidate –the 1955 250 Europa GT Coupe, s/n 0397 GT, of Bob and Marianne Anderson. They were overjoyed and told a touch-

ing story of their long ownership of the car. In addition that night, Jet Aviation made a significant donation to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County.

Friday night’s social scene was back to its old form with the revival of the Showboats Yacht Hop at the refurbished Rybovich boatyards. After the docks were torn up by three hurricanes, the Yacht Hop had to be retired for several years while the yards were being repaired. Rybovich did a magnificent job, with more room for the Ferraris and up to twenty exclusive boats of all sizes on display for boarding and viewing. Showboats International did a splendid job hosting the Classic participants as well as their own maritime guests.

Back at The Breakers after the Yacht Hop, there was the Awards Party for the Historic Challenge, with a toast to the winners of the 2007 season, Chuck Wegner and Tom Price, who received special Ferrari-branded *Officine Panerai* watches. After dinner were the Awards for the races of that day, with many Class Awards handed out along with the winners of the two main races who received the *Trofeo di Floridas*. The winner of the drum brake race was Peter Giddings in his Maserati 250 F, s/n 2501, and taking the honors in the disc brake race was Todd Morici in his 512 BBLM, s/n 38181. Congratulations to all.

The climax of the week for many was the *Concorso d’Eleganza* on the front lawn of The Breakers, on Saturday, January 26. 150 pristine Ferrari automobiles were on display with about half being presented for judging, with the judges being leading experts from Europe and America. The displays were magnificent with groupings rarely seen, including five Superamericas, five TDFs, four Californias, and sixteen Daytonas among others. In the race car groupings were two now rare F333 SPs and several 360 and 430 ALMS race cars of recent vintage, including the 2007 Sebring winner, s/n 2406, the one in that fender bender photo finish after 12 hours of racing. On prominent display was the new 430 Scuderia along with a crowd-stopping white on white personalized 612 *Sessanta*.

At the evening banquet at The Breakers, Class Awards and Major Cups were presented, along with The Cavallino Cups for the two Best in Show. The winner of the Scuderia Ferrari Cup for the Best of Show Competition Ferrari was the beautiful 1949 166 MM Touring Berlinetta Le Mans, s/n 0026 M, of Jack Croul of Corona Del Mar, California. The winner of the Gran Turismo Ferrari Cup for the Best of Show GT Ferrari was the immaculate 1958 250 GT PF Cabriolet, s/n 0813 GT, of Peter Kalikow of New York City.

There was also a new trophy this year and the Cavallino Classic was honored to be chosen as the event for the presentation of the first ever *Ferrari Classiche* Cup for the Outstanding Factory Certified Ferrari, and this was awarded by Ferrari SpA and NA. On hand to inspect the certified Ferraris on the show field, and to present the Award that evening, were Roberto Vaglietti, the retiring head of the

Classiche Department and his new replacement Marco Arrighi, and they chose a lovely 1967 330 GTS, s/n 10689, owned by David MacNeil of Hinsdale, Illinois.

The long but inspiring week was capped with a special Sunday program that included two events – the first at Mar-a-Lago, the legendary Marjorie Merriweather Post mansion in Palm Beach. The Ferraris and other significant automobiles of the Mar-a-Lago era were arrayed on the back lawn where the guests voted for their favorite classics. The Awards were presented at the charity brunch in the new Ballroom, with the Best of Show here being again the 1949 166 MM Touring Berlinetta Le Mans, s/n 0026 M, of Jack Croul.

Everyone's "Personal Favorite," in other words, "if I could take one home..." was the stunning yellow with green top 1961 400 Superamerica Cabriolet, s/n 2407 SA, of Wayne and Marilyn Nelson of Longwood, Florida. The Ladies Choice Award was won by Carol J. Brawley of Palm Beach for her rakish racing 1951 Jaguar XK-120, and she came up and told a delightful tale of longing for this car for many years and finally acquiring it only a few weeks ago.

The Cavallino Classic was pleased to host a second event on Sunday, a new automobile show dedicated to the true enthusiast for true sports cars. Named Classic Sports Sunday, the theme was old and new sports and race cars from

all manufacturers. Classic Sports Sunday was organized by the staff of the Cavallino Classic, with the same attention to quality and detail that have become the hallmark of the Classic. It was held on the grounds of the Hilton Hotel, and 1,000 enthusiasts braved early morning rain to see 100 unique and special sports and race cars, from a bug-eyed Sprite to a Lola T-70. Plans are to slowly grow this new Classic event until it becomes the premier multi-marque sports car event of the winter season in Florida.

The stature of the Palm Beach Cavallino Classic is recognized by the fact that it is the first ever automotive event at The Breakers Resort Hotel and at Mar-a-Lago, and the first ever automotive event in Palm Beach. In addition, the Classic has hosted the U.S. non-auto show presentation of every new Ferrari automobile for the past 17 years. The Palm Beach Cavallino Classic is also regarded as one of the top five automotive events in the world, along with the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, the Villa d'Este Concorso d'Eleganza, the Amelia Island Concours and Concorso Italiano.

The Palm Beach Cavallino Classic XVII wants to thank all the participants, guests, sponsors, patrons, press and staff who made the event a success. The Classic was hosted by Cavallino Magazine, The Journal of Ferrari History.