

Octane

Fuelling the passion

COLLECTORS' EDITION
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IGNITION// DIARY

BEST EVENTS

Florida

FLORIDA'S MILD mild winter climate means cars aren't hidden away to hibernate. Early March sees the **Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance** (www.ameliaconcours.org) putting some of the world's most desirable cars on display. It's the best car show in Florida, and second only to Pebble Beach in car quality, because many

classics are restored specifically to make their debut here. But the real treat is the southern charm that makes this event a spectator favourite.

Ferraris are built for the rich and elite, and the **Cavallino Classic weekend** (www.cavallino.com) was founded around this philosophy. The late-January affair includes two track days and a Sunday concours open to all makes, but the centrepiece is devoted only to the prancing horse. The **Cavallino Concorso Saturday** fills the green grass at The Breakers in Palm

Beach with the rarest Ferraris brought in from around the world. Best in Show here, as well as at Amelia Island, is eligible for the Louis Vuitton Classic, which really means something to the big collectors of the world.

At the other end of the social scale is the **Mecum Kissimmee Auction** (www.mecum.com). Muscle cars dominate this 2000-plus vehicle sale in the Orlando area. So while most auctions are an odd lot of vehicles, for fans of American heavy metal this late-January exchange is eBay come alive, and a social event all of its own.

For those who want more contemporary dream machines there are the **Festivals of Speed** (www.festivalsofspeed.com). During various dates in the winter and spring, the Florida cities of Miami, Mission Inn, Orlando and St Petersburg play host to high-society weekend events built around modern supercars (some classics sneak in, too). Make sure to cut through the social fluff and just attend the car shows.

The wild card in Florida events is the **Boca Raton Concours d'Elegance** (www.bocaratonconcours.com). It cannot yet touch Amelia Island for stature, but its location as a winter retreat for the wealthy means it has attracted such rarities as a 1948 Vauxhall concept and one of two 1927 Georges Irat Model A Cabriolets. This late-February show shouldn't be the centrepiece of a vacation, but for an enthusiast spending two weeks in Florida, this and Amelia Island make decent bookends. **Myles Kornblatt**



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The annual Cavallino Classic is the ultimate classic Ferrari show; Festivals of Speed is a series of events held throughout the year.