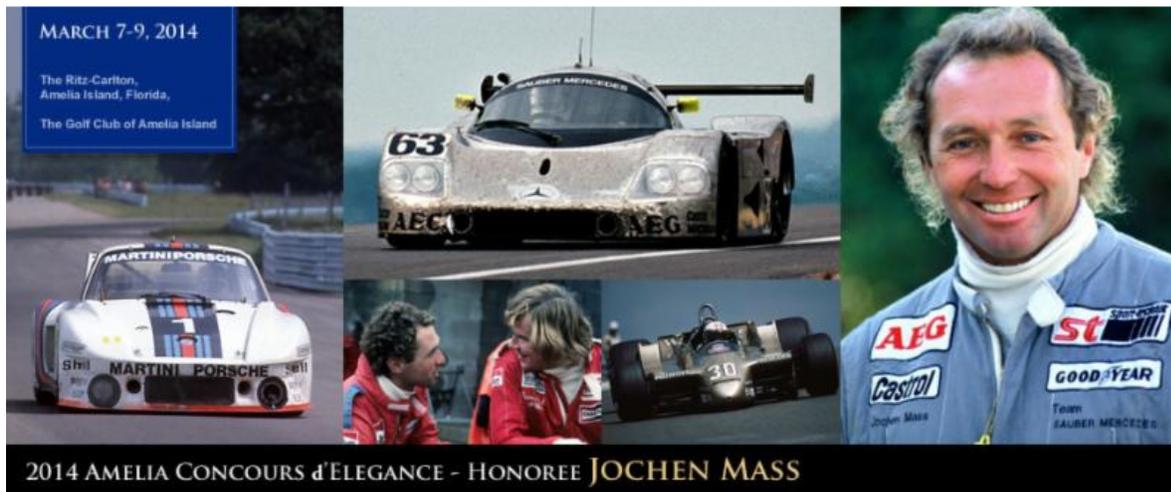




# AMELIA ISLAND 2014 CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

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## STIRLING MOSS' LE MANS COUPE HEADLINES AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE MASERATI CENTENARY



In celebration of Maserati's 100th anniversary, the unique and rarely seen Maserati 450S Le Mans "Costin Coupe" will be the competition centerpiece at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance.

Created as a secret weapon to win the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1957, the 450S's exterior design and brutish exhaust note made it the star of the French race 57 years ago. Maserati mechanics referred to it as "Il Monstro," Italian for "the monster."

Stirling Moss was assigned to race the V-8-powered red coupe, following his idea to create an aerodynamic coupe that would outrun the field on the Sarthe Circuit's 3.4-mile Mulsanne Straight.

Moss suggested an aerodynamic coupe version of the potent Sebring-winning Maserati 450S sports car, asserting that such a car would offer a significant advantage on the high-speed Le Mans road circuit.

A slippery, aerodynamic body on the fastest and most powerful car in the 1957 World Sports Car Championship seemed like an idea too good to ignore, especially coming from a winning professional such as Moss.

Accordingly, Maserati commissioned Frank Costin, the English designer of the Grand Prix-winning Vanwalls and the svelte Lotus 11, to create the design. Carrozzeria Zagato, the Milano coachbuilder, worked overtime to ready the new coupe ready for the 1957 running of the world's most famous endurance race.

Sadly, the short deadlines and a relentless calendar caused the coupe to be delivered without the full aerodynamic under-tray mandated by the designer.

Further complicating matters, no time remained for testing or development. Despite this, by the race's second hour, Moss lashed the potent 450S coupe into second place behind the team's 450S roadster. The one-two Maserati show didn't last, however. By dark both red cars were parked.

Its brief racing career over, Il Monstro languished in Italy for more than a year. The factory removed the components and sat the chassis and coachwork aside. In April of 1958, American enthusiast Byron Staver convinced Maserati to convert the abandoned coupe into a very special and exotic road car.

The car was reconfigured by Maserati's Mendardo Fantuzzi (later an independent coachbuilder) reconfigured the car, extending the wheelbase by 10 inches to accommodate its American owner. Staver kept the car until 1960.

Following several changes of ownership, Il Monstro was displayed at the Rosso Bianco Museum in Germany from 1978 through 2002. Maserati collector Alfredo Brener then acquired the car and carried out a thorough restoration.

Today, Moss's 450S coupe remains the rarest of all Maseratis and is considered by experts and insiders to be the first true "supercar."



## [TICKETS ON SALE NOW](#)

### About The Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

Now in its second decade, the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is among the top automotive events in the world. Always held the second full weekend in March, "The Amelia" draws over 250 rare vehicles from collections around the world to The Golf Club of Amelia Island and The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island for a celebration of the automobile like no other. Since 1996, the show's Foundation has donated over \$2 million to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Inc. and other deserving charities on Florida's First Coast. The 19th annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is scheduled for March 7-9, 2014. For more information, visit [www.ameliaconcours.org](http://www.ameliaconcours.org).



Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance  
3016 Mercury Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207  
[www.ameliaconcours.org](http://www.ameliaconcours.org)

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