

DRIVING THE DREAM

NEW AND COLLECTIBLE BUILT FOR SPEED MACHINES

by *Elisa Jordan*



There's little doubt that many people have deep connections to their cars. What's interesting is how that connection presents itself because it's a little different for everyone. Some love the freedom of the open road; for others it's the mechanics, the appreciation for finely crafted machinery, the art of a car body's shape, the peaceful disconnection from reality one experiences while driving or simply a lust for life. Whatever it is, it draws car lovers and collectors together from around the globe who speak a common language of all things automotive. We've selected a group of cars that nearly every enthusiast would aspire to own.



1979 PONTIAC TRANS AM

Estimate \$500,000

If you remember *Smokey & the Bandit* (1977) then you remember that no one was cooler than Burt Reynolds as the mischievous, police-dodging bootlegger Bo "Bandit" Darville. Bandit's antics in the cat-and-mouse chase movie were all the more memorable thanks the black Trans-Am that Bandit drove. The car was so prominently featured that it was basically considered a character in the movie. Burt and the Trans Am went on to make two more *Smokey & the Bandit* films, with the movie, car and actor becoming synonymous with outlaw cool for an entire generation. Reynolds passed away last year at the age of 82, and now his personally owned 1979 black Trans Am is going on the auction block with his family's blessing. Reynolds co-owned this particular car with a business partner and it appeared with him in publicity photos and on the Bandit Run cross country rally, which re-enacts the journey Bandit took in the original movie.





2019 PORSCHE 911 CARRERA S MODELS

From \$113,300

The name Porsche is practically synonymous with luxury sports cars and the latest 911 Carrera S models are no exception. This version retains the basic, iconic Porsche shape while introducing an updated front lid, new exterior mirrors and retractable door handles. Also new is the 8-speed Porsche Doppelkupplung (PDK) that allows for exceptionally fast gear changes and enhanced performance. The S line features 443 maximum horsepower and can go 0-60 miles per hour in 3.5 seconds—with the Sport Chrono Package that becomes 3.3 seconds. It can reach 191 miles per hour and the maximum torque is a robust 2,300-5,000 rpm. It's no wonder these well-built cars have remained so popular. With their nimble handling, luxury features and sleek body styles, they can handle any type of driving situation, from cruising on open to roads to navigating crowded highways. Porsche's commitment to excellence has remained so consistent that the brand has developed loyal customers that return for new models again and again.



2019 DODGE CHALLENGER HELLCAT REDEYE

From \$70,000

When the final Dodge Challenger STR Demon rolled off the assembly line in 2018, many fans of the powerful car wondered what would follow. Dodge didn't disappoint when it revealed the Challenger SRT Hellcat Redeye. The Challenger Hellcat has been a favorite for lovers of fast vehicles but the latest version now incorporates some of what made the Demon so ferocious. Those features include a dual-snorkel hood, two duel-stage fuel pumps, SRT Power Chiller and Torque Reserve. There's also been a 10-horsepower increase, bringing the number up to 897. How fast can it go? It's reportedly gotten up to 203 miles per hour and can go from 0-60 in 3.4 seconds and 1/4-mile in 10.8 seconds. What hasn't changed is the Challenger's sporty muscle car shape and styling, giving it a classic look but updating performance and handling for the modern era. For all its power, the Challenger also boasts a quiet ride and comfortable seats for better travel. Other luxuries include a widebody option, more spacious backseats and a large trunk.



Photo courtesy of Shelby

1966 SHELBY COBRA 427 SUPER SNAKE

\$5.1 million

Shelby only made two of these roadsters and of the two, only one survives. This makes the authentic 1966 Shelby Cobra 427 Super Snake one of the ultimate prizes for rare car collectors. Originally, 23 427 competition roadsters were built, with this particular car shipping to Ford Advanced Vehicles, England, on September 7, 1965, as a 427 Cobra Competition roadster. This car, along with a matching 427 Cobra Competition and two R-model Shelbys, went on a European tour. It returned to the United States in late 1966; sometime in early to mid-1967 it was converted to the Super Snake and reclassified as 437 Cobra Semi-Competition. The reason behind the transformation was to make the car street legal, which meant the addition of a muffler, windshield and bumpers. One of the two Super Snakes went to comedian Bill Cosby, who was friends with car builder Carroll Shelby. The car proved too much for Cosby, who drove it just once and returned it. The next owner accidentally drove himself and the powerful machine off a cliff and into the Pacific Ocean. That leaves this lone Super Snake, which is still in mint condition. It last sold at auction in 2015 for \$5.1 million.

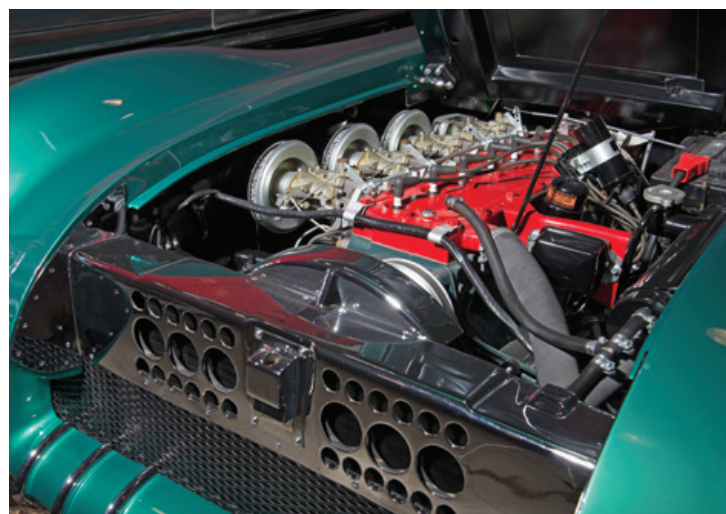




1954 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE SPECIAL MOTORAMA CONCEPT CAR

\$3.3 million

When General Motors Motorama unveiled its 1954 concept car it was special for a couple of reasons. One, it was the first two-seater sports car that Pontiac had produced. And two, it was the first car to bear the name Bonneville. Although some dispute the story, legend says that designer Harley J. Earl conceived the idea for the car and named it after a trip to Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah to watch speed trials. The design contains elements of European sports cars and nods to the American fascination with space in the 1950s. Builders Homer C. LaGassey Jr. and Paul Gilland constructed the car with a fiberglass body and Plexiglass canopy with gull-wing windows. Just two prototypes of the concept car were made. A bronze-colored version was sent to New York and debuted at the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf. The green version was sent to the Pan Pacific Auditorium in Los Angeles and later toured dealerships around the country. Both cars still exist, with the green one selling at auction in 2015 for \$3.3 million.



Photos courtesy of Barrett-Jackson Auction Company



2019 CADILLAC CTS-V

From \$87,000

Cadillac touts the CTS-V as the fastest car it has ever produced. The luxury sedan boasts a Supercharged V8 with an impressive 640 horsepower and 8-speed automatic transmission with magnesium paddle shifters. It can go 0-60 miles per hour in 3.7 seconds and reach track speeds of 200 miles per hour. This authoritative car rivals any sports car but is also a luxury sedan designed to appeal to drivers who appreciate sophistication. The body is a combination of aerodynamics and lightweight materials to maximize performance while maintaining an elegant look. The Cadillac brand has a heritage of superior technology, craftsmanship and style—this latest edition to the fold is no exception.

Elisa Jordan is a writer and editor in Southern California, an area known for its car culture. She accompanied her father to many a car show when she was a little girl.