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[The highlight sales of the 2015 Amelia Island auctions](#)

Lead

All three major auction houses set out stalls at a rather wet Amelia Island this year. Buyers' spirits certainly weren't dampened, though – and while Bonhams will be satisfied with a 79% sell-through figure for an inaugural auction, RM christened its Sotheby's tie-up with a near-100% success rate...

A pre-War American flavour at Bonhams' inaugural Amelia sale



For its [first auction at the Amelia Island extravaganza](#), Bonhams plucked several high-value eggs from the pre-War American basket, a move that paid dividends. A 1930 Cord Model L-29 Town Car sold for an impressive \$1.76m, with a 1908 American Underslung Roadster charting a near-identical result (give or take \$20k) a few lots later. Finally, a 1932 Stutz DV-32 Super Bearcat convertible (just) breached the million-dollar barrier at \$1.01m. Among the post-War contingent, a 1952 Alfa Romeo 1900C Sprint Coupé made \$415,800 against a predicted top estimate of \$250,000, and a 1980 Ferrari 512BB doubled its \$150,000 top estimate comfortably, with a \$359,000 result. The \$605,000 BMW M1 contributed towards a sale total of almost \$14m – not bad for a new auction, particularly given the disappointing weather and less-than-extravagant location.

The going was (mainly) good for Gooding



[Gooding & Company](#) was able to sell almost \$27m-worth of its wares on the Friday but, despite the live appearance of Sir Stirling Moss, the headlining Maserati 200 SI he once raced failed to find a new owner. However, the Café Mexicano-liveried 1974 Porsche 911 3.0-litre RSR made almost \$1.24m, while the 993 GT2 made a healthy \$973,500 – a new benchmark for the rare model. Elsewhere, one dedicated Ferrari enthusiast paid almost \$1.16m for the modern-classic 599 S.A. Aperta, of which only 80 examples were built; its ancient ancestor, a four-cam 275 GTB, made a slightly-shy-of-estimate \$3.3m. The 1999 Ferrari F355 Spider Serie Fiorano, which boasts the performance enhancements of its Challenge circuit-car cousin, sold for almost double its low estimate at \$198,000; however, the modest \$440,000 result for the 575 Superamerica shows that not *all* the modern, limited-series Ferraris are soaring in value at the rate many expect they should.

New name, new records for RM Sotheby's





At [RM's first auction with the Sotheby's name permanently attached](#), a swift response to the underwhelming beginning-of-year sales was actioned, with a near-100% sell-through rate. While the top-billing Jaguars struggled with somewhat ambitious estimates (the XJR-9 going for \$2.15m against a \$3 - \$5m forecast, and the D-type selling post-sale for \$3.68m against a predicted \$3.75m - \$4.25m), there was a clear appetite for the 'new-classic' Ferraris. An F512 M fetched a healthy \$462,000 (estimate: \$325,000 - \$375,000), a 365 GTC/4 sold for \$495,000 (estimate \$300,000 - \$375,000), and a 512 BB made \$418,000 (estimate: \$325,000 - \$375,000).



Other highlight results saw a Ferrari 400 Superamerica SWB Cabriolet reach a World Record \$6.38m, while the semi-competition Shelby Cobra went for \$2.1m. The 'garage-find' Daytona proved its romantic worth with a solid, beyond-estimate \$770,000 result – but by far the biggest surprise of the sale was the 2007 Ferrari 599 GTB, which sold for a mind-boggling \$682,000 against a pre-sale estimate of \$200,000 - \$275,000. Either the new owner *really* wanted the rare manual gearbox in its chromed and gated splendour – or simply mistook the 'B' for an 'O'.

The Porsche Turbo price phenomenon is realised



There was something in the air that suggested [big money for air-cooled 911 Turbos was on the cards at the Amelia auctions](#), and the spoils were ultimately shared all round. Gooding claimed a coup by selling a 993 Turbo S in the rare shade of Ocean Jade for a heady \$440,000, some \$40,000 over the already lofty estimate. In the same sale, its predecessor – a 1994 Porsche 964 Turbo 3.6 – was sold for \$330,000. Over at RM, a 1988 slant-nose Turbo convertible made \$363,000, while a coupé from the previous year, in the same colour but without the flat front, made \$220,000. Completing RM's Turbo trio was a low-mileage, eggshell-coloured 930 (Chiffon Yellow, actually) that sold for \$253,000 against a \$175,000 high estimate. Bonhams, meanwhile, scored \$210,000 for an Arena Red 993 Turbo with fewer than 15,000 miles on the odometer.

Photos: Bonhams, RM Sotheby's, Gooding & Co.

Gallery

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