

CLASSIC DRIVER

Streamlined 1938 Mercedes 540K Autobahnkurier wins best of show at Pebble Beach 2021

Lead

Having taken home best-in-show at Amelia Island in 2019, the Mercedes-Benz 540K Autobahnkurier is once again in the spotlight as it takes home top prize at the 70th Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance.

Despite being the 50th anniversary of the Lamborghini Countach, the unique Mercedes 540K Autobahnkurier has stolen the show - no mean feat when considering the caliber of automotive jewels on display this weekend. This is the car’s second time in the final four, having been nominated for the top award back in 2006, where it instead took home most elegant closed car.



First shown as a concept back in 1934 at the Berlin Motor Show, this car was then built on a pre-war chassis and powered by a 5.4 litre straight-eight producing 180 horsepower. Designed as a high-speed highway cruiser, the Autobahnkurier could travel at speeds of up to 115 mph. First sold to a Spanish professor by the name of Ignacio Barraquer, and now owned by Arturo and Deborah Keller, this graceful Benz is the only one in existence and a deserved winner of the top prize.

Photos by Rolex/Tom O'Neal

Gallery

Source URL: <https://www.classicdriver.com/en/article/cars/streamlined-1938-mercedes-540k-autobahnkurier-wins-best-show-pebble-beach-2021>
© Classic Driver. All rights reserved.