



CONCORSO D'ELEGANZA  
VILLA D'ESTE

*dal*  
*1929*

Press Release 27th May 2017

## **Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este 2017: The public prize Coppa d'Oro Villa d'Este goes to the Lurani Nibbio.**

**First award at the world's most exclusive beauty contest for historic automobiles and motorcycles is awarded +++ Visitors to Villa d'Este salute the Lurani Nibbio from 1935 as their favourite +++ Beauty pageant of rare treasures at Lake Como will be continue on Sunday with the announcement of the class winners +++ Crowning finish is the award of the Trofeo BMW Group for the "Best of Show".**

**Munich /Cernobbio.** A public referendum on Saturday awarded the first of the prestigious prizes at the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este 2017. The Grand Hotel Villa d'Este and the BMW Group are joint organisers of the world's most exclusive and traditional beauty contest for historic cars and motorcycles. Visitors in the grounds of the Grand Hotel Villa d'Este selected the Lurani Nibbio from 1935 as this year's winner of the Coppa d'Oro Villa d'Este. Federico Götsche Bebert accepted the coveted trophy to applause from the public audience. The Italian owner is the grandson of the legendary journalist, publisher, automobile designer and racing driver Giovanni Lurani Cernuschi, VIIIth Count of Calvenzano (1905 – 1995). He designed and built the vehicle himself and went on to break numerous records driving the car.

The designer's daughter, Francisca Lurani Cernuschi, and mother of the current owner of the winning vehicle also took part in the ceremony awarding the prize. She said that the Lurani Nibbio had always been in family ownership. "The car was always the star in the family, the jewel in the crown of our house. We are truly grateful to the public audience for making this selection." The one-time record-breaking car had not been driven for the past 70 years, according to

Federico Götttsche Bebert. It only recently occurred to him to bring his grandfather's car back to life again and enter it in Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este, "Initially, we were concerned that the public would misinterpret the idiosyncratic history of the vehicle. But that was obviously not the case."

The nature of the unusual victorious vehicle provided the first award ceremony at the Concorso Villa d'Este 2017 with an ideal connection to the motto for this year's event "Around the World in 80 Days – Voyage through an Era of Records". This is because the Lurani Nibbio is not just a one-off special but also a vehicle with a unique history in motor sport. Between 1935 and 1947, it set up a large number of World Records for speed. The Lurani Nibbio entered the class "Speed Demons – Endurance Pioneers of the Golden Age" in the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este 2017. The compact external dimensions and the aerodynamically optimised body leave absolutely no doubt about the racing car's original purpose.

Giovanni Lurani was born in Lombardy, Northern Italy, and he started his professional career as an automobile designer. At the end of the 1920s, he was already competing in motor racing. He lined up at the start of the Mille Miglia a total of nine times, including 1938 when he was driving a BMW 328. Lurani achieved three class victories in the endurance race, but he was even more successful driving the lightweight and aerodynamically styled record-breaking vehicles that he designed himself.

The Lurani Nibbio now awarded the Coppa d'Oro Villa d'Este was the first vehicle developed by Lurani in the quest for record-breaking times. The car was powered by a 500 cc two-cylinder motorcycle engine from Moto Guzzi that developed 46 hp, and the Nibbio broke four World Speed Records with the owner and designer at the wheel. The Lurani Nibbio was also the first automobile with an engine capacity of 0.5 litres to achieve a speed of more than 100 mph (160.9 km/h). In 1939, Carrozzeria Riva optimised the body of the record-breaking car. Another eight records were the result. But more successes were still to come. The Lurani Nibbio broke six more speed records in the period up to 1947. This time the automobile was powered by a 250 cc supercharged single-cylinder engine also manufactured by Moto Guzzi. Later on, the supercharged power unit was replaced by a naturally aspirated engine generating 43 hp which still powers the Lurani Nibbio to this day.

Every year, the Coppa d'Oro Villa d'Este is the first trophy to be awarded at the Festival of Elegance on the shores of Lake Como. And at the same time, it is the most traditional prize to be

awarded. Back in 1929, when the grounds of the Grand Hotel Villa d'Este were first used as the stage for an automobile exhibition, a trophy with this name was also awarded. At that time and up until 1949, major motor manufacturers presented their new cars at the Concorso d'Eleganza. Since the 1980s, the event has been dedicated to the history of the automobile. In 1999, the BMW Group became the patron for the Concorso and since 2005 the company and the Grand Hotel Villa d'Este d'Este have been joint organisers of the beauty pageant for rare gems.

On Saturday, the Jury – like the public audience – were also giving careful appraisal to the participants in the competition drawn from a wide range of different eras in automobile history. A total of 51 automobiles in eight categories are taking part in the competition. The field of historic motorcycles comprises 41 classics that are grouped in five classes and one special class. On Sunday, each of the specialist Juries of experts for historic automobiles and motorcycles will first announce the class winners. The Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este 2017 will then be concluded in the evening with the ceremony for the winner of the Trofeo BMW Group awarded for the “Best of Show”.

Media representatives will find additional information under

<http://www.concorsodeleganzavilladeste.com>

and under <http://www.press.bmwgroup.com> (please use the search word “Concorso”).

If you have any questions, please contact:

**BMW Group Communication and Governmental Affairs**

Stefan Behr

BMW Group Classic, Head of Communications and Events

Phone: +49-89-382-51376

mailto: [Stefan.Behr@bmw.de](mailto:Stefan.Behr@bmw.de)

Internet: [www.press.bmw.de](http://www.press.bmw.de)