

Auction Week in Scottsdale

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January in Scottsdale, Arizona, is a great time of year because of the great weather (average high of 67 degrees and lows of about 45 degrees) that people can enjoy in the Sonoran Desert, especially since there is such extreme winter weather in most of the rest of the United States. But besides the weather, it is a great place to kick off the new year with the best collection of car auctions that anyone can find. It is a big kick-off event, not only for the U.S. car market but also internationally as you will find buyers from all over the world in attendance. Even though the January 2018 auctions will be over by the time you read this, I thought I'd use this month's column to highlight what you missed.

There are six different auctions going on at the same time, all within easy driving distance of each other. If you are a serious car collector or first-time car buyer, there is no way you can't find something that will make you happy. And if you have time, I would encourage trying to at least visit all the different venues listed below. After all, there will easily be well over 2,000 cars to inspect.

It's not only a great place for looking at cars, but also a place to rub shoulders with other car buyers. And since there are so many other things to do in the area, it's a great family vacation as well. Of course, I am a bit biased because I live smack in the middle of it all. Here is a quick summary of the different auctions we have going on every January.

The Barrett-Jackson auction started in 1971 and its headquarters are in Scottsdale. For Arizona, it is clearly the best known of all the auctions not only because it's the home base for this auction house but also B-J has been doing this the longest. It's also the biggest of them all with not only cars but also

memorabilia and various vendor stands held at WestWorld. The auction lasts nine days with at least 1,600 cars sold, the huge majority under B-J's no reserve policy. Most of the auction is broadcast live on television.

Russo and Steele is probably the next best-known collector car auction that specializes in American musclecars, European sports cars, hot rods, and customs. Also located in Scottsdale, this auction was founded in 2001 by Drew Alcazar. The auction is held now at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick in Scottsdale, running over five days and featuring about 800 cars.

The Gooding and Company Collector Car Auction has been hosting an event in Scottsdale since 2008, currently located near the Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall. The focus is a more upscale car market and buyers, with some record sales that alone would make most people drool. The auction will be held over two days and offers about 130 cars. What this

auction will not feature is crafts or knick-knacks. If you are looking for neon signs for your game room or die-cast toy cars, you are at the wrong auction.

The new company of RM Sotheby's was formed in 2015 by combining RM Auctions with Sotheby's. Again, this is another high-end car collector auction company that actually has its own car restoration shop with headquarters in Canada. It is the #1 auction house by total value of cars sold from 2014 to 2017. Started in Arizona in 1999, it was held at the Arizona Biltmore over two days.

Bonham's auction started in Arizona in 2011 and is held at the Westin Kierland Resort. Featuring about 100 cars, it is yet another high-end auction that specializes not only in cars but also collector books and automotive related collectibles.

Worldwide Auctioneer's is the newest auction house to come to Arizona in January starting in 2016. The auction this year featured just under 100 cars and was held on McDowell Road.

Silver Auctions is located just a little bit outside of Scottsdale at Fort McDowell Casino. This event has also been held for a number of years and is known as a place to find some good deals because of its location away from everything else.

What was I looking forward to the most in 2018? A few cars, like a 1969 Cobra Jet convertible at Barrett-Jackson, a 1965 Shelby GT350 at Russo and Steele, a 1963 Shelby Cobra at Gooding, a 1966 Shelby 427 Cobra at RM Sotheby's, Carroll Shelby's personal GT350H at Bonhams, and a 1970 Boss 302 at Worldwide Auctioneers.

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