



ash - through the esses

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Through The Esses - A Vintage Festival Is Easy On The Eyes - Take A Look

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If you have ever found yourself looking through an internet photo gallery of shots taken at a Vintage racing festival and thought, "Gee, that looks like a great place to spend some time, watching some great racecars from the past back on the track!", then this weekend might be the best time to focus those eyes on the real thing. God knows the resolution is better! And the noise - if the internet site even has any to offer - is not coming at you out of a pair of computer speakers. No, when you are trackside at a vintage festival that noise comes to you unfiltered and direct from the engines of the cars speeding by. And it is an intoxicating noise indeed.



Lime Rock Park is located in the northwest corner of the state of Connecticut. Every year a vintage festival takes place over the Labor Day Holiday Weekend. The tradition continues this weekend with the **Rolex Vintage Festival presented by BMW.**

The weather man is predicting low humidity and high sunshine for the 3-day festival which includes races on Saturday and Monday, and a "Sunday in the Park" display of beautiful cars on the middle day of the festival. Why no racing on Sunday too? The rules were spelled out by the townspeople back in 1957 when the track was first constructed. And the rules have never been changed in the 48 year history of the circuit.

Aston Martin is the marque that will be singularly honored at this year's festival. A man who achieved a modest degree of success behind the wheel of an Aston-Martin - winning the 1959 24 Hours of Le Mans in an Aston Martin DBR1 - **Carroll Shelby**, will also be a featured guest. There will be many a Cobra and Mustang on the grounds for sure this weekend, as the fans and fanatics love to bring their prized personal cars to this event. And what better experience could a proud owner have than to hang out with the man who started the whole Shelby Cobra mystique in the first place?

On the track there will be an extensive assortment of cars ranging in dates of manufacture from 1900 through 1980. Fans of the history of sportscar racing that these cars continue to keep alive will instantly recognize the names: Alfa Romeo, Allard, Bentley, BMW, Brabham, Ferrari, Jaguar, Lola, Lotus, Maserati, MG, Porsche, Shelby, Triumph and more.

From a Lime Rock Park press release: *"The Vintage & Historic Car Show spans the pre-war era, the timeless classics that helped facilitate the sports car revolution in the United States in the late 1940s and early '50s, and the more modern favorites through the early '80s."*

That tells you there is sure to be a car or cars that will appeal to anyone who cares about cars in the first place. Like the GTP era? They will be represented. Prefer open wheel cars from the 1930s and 40s? There are sure to be plenty of those around too. And the best part is, you can see them at speed on the track, and see them up close while parked in the paddock. The whole weekend atmosphere is both relaxed and unrushed, except when the drivers are going at it during a race.

More from the press release: *"Rolex will display its extraordinary Moments In Time exhibit, featuring noteworthy race cars, manufacturers and racing legends from the glory days of motorsports. And MINI, BMW Motorcycles and Rolls Royce will have their own displays and presence at the Rolex Vintage Festival. BMW's theme for the event will be the history of the 3 series as a street and race car with displays of models from the 1970s to the newest 2006 330i.*

"There will also be two electrifying stunt demonstrations that will entertain fans of all ages. Aerobatic pilot Kirby Chambliss will perform on Monday and BMW motorcycle stunt rider Jean-Pierre Goy will do his heart-stopping show throughout the weekend."

Lime Rock offers exceptional viewing areas and open access to the paddock area. Taking pictures is encouraged as is walking the paddock and talking to the people who prepare and race these beautiful, exotic and priceless automobiles. This is no NASCAR circus environment, where you have to stand behind fences in the paddock area. No, this is quite different indeed. You will be sure to enjoy the experience if you go. Bring along a few lawn chairs, some sun block, your camera, and don't forget your eyes and ears!

And when you do go, you will have to park your car somewhere (in a designated area, of course. As much as you might like to get in a few laps with your SUV, that isn't going to happen!) . Lime Rock collects a parking fee and, in support of the victims of the Hurricane Katrina tragedy, all proceeds collected through parking revenues will be donated to the American Red Cross's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. So now, going to the festival will not only make you feel great, it will help the ARC make those unfortunate souls along the Gulf Coast feel a bit better too.

For more information about the Rolex Vintage Festival presented by BMW at Lime Rock Park, you can visit the LRP website at [Lime Rock website](#)

We will be there this weekend and we don't mind sharing our hilltop view of Big Bend and the Esses with you. After all, we are car nuts too and we really do need to get away from our computer screens once in a while and see life as it happens - in all three dimensions and utilizing all six senses!