

Foundation raffles innovative set of 'smart' wheels

By MARY BROWNFIELD

IT'S SO small it doesn't even get capital letters in its name, and two can fit in a single parking space. But its manufacturer claims the fuel-efficient "smart fortwo passion cabriolet" is "big on the inside." And one of the convertible, 71-horsepower, French autos that max out at 90 mph will go home with the person holding the winning ticket next month in a fundraising raffle held by The Carmel Foundation.

The nonprofit — which provides meals, classes, housing and other services to members age 55 and older and is the chosen charity of the Aug. 11-12 Carmel-by-the-Sea Concours on the Avenue — has already sold one-fifth of the 500 raffle tickets being offered at \$100 each.

The Concours on the Avenue, which takes place smack-dab in the center of town, was a smash hit last year. This year's event has been extended to cover two days, featuring Porsche and Ferrari, years 1947 through 1973, on Monday, and various marques from 1946 through 1971 on Tuesday. Each day, more than 130 entries in several classes will compete for awards while a new non-judged Heritage Avenue Exhibit includes collector and high profile cars from all eras.

In addition, businesses will compete in the Concours in the Windows by setting up displays capturing the spirit and energy of the Peninsula's much-vaunted Car Week.

The foundation's raffle car will be given away during the event's awards ceremony Tuesday, but the winner need not be present in order to claim the prize.

The smart fortwo convertible, built at the environmentally friendly factory known as "smartville" in Hambach, France, features a 1-liter, three-cylinder motor that gets 33 to 41 mpg and has a host of big-car features. It also utilizes safety technology designed to survive collisions with the much larger vehicles that dominate the roads: full-size driver and passenger airbags, head/neck side airbags, an electronic stability program and an antilock braking system.

Raffle tickets for the fortwo cabriolet are available at The Carmel Foundation, Lincoln and Eighth in downtown Carmel, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets will also be sold from 1 to 5 p.m. July 25 at Trader Joe's in Monterey, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 26 at the Crossroads Safeway and 2 to 6 p.m. July 27 at Whole Foods.

Participants can also send a check to The Carmel Foundation Car Raffle, P.O. Box 1050, Carmel, CA 93921, call Juliette Ferguson at 624.1588 ext. 45 or email her at jferguson@carmelfoundation.org.

Patrons wanted

The foundation is also selling "Patron experience" packages that will provide top-of-the-line treatment during the Carmel-by-the-Sea Concours on the Avenue, beginning with an exclusive dinner at Bernardus Lodge in Carmel Valley Aug. 8 and culminating with a soiree Aug. 14.

For \$2,500 for two, patrons will dine at Bernardus, attend a welcome reception at Carmel Plaza Aug. 11, enjoy hospitality in Il Fornaio during the event's two days and take part in a private party at Sunset Center Aug. 14. They will also receive posters, programs and special gifts. (Last year's patrons took home treasures from Tiffany & Co.)

Half of the proceeds for each patron subscription will benefit The Carmel Foundation.



PHOTO/PAIGE JOHNSON DESIGN

It's cute, it's efficient, and it could be yours for \$100.