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**VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON, TO HOST SECOND ANNUAL  
COLUMBIA RIVER CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE**  
*Historic Officers Row is setting for prestigious car show*

**VANCOUVER, Wash.** — Based on the success of last year's inaugural event, the Columbia River Concours d'Elegance has again selected Vancouver for its prestigious showcase of classic cars. Hundreds of rare and exotic cars as well as antique automobiles will be on display on Sunday, August 7, 2011, at the beautiful Officers Row located at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. The event is a fundraiser with all net proceeds going to Rotary International scholarships and service projects.

"We're delighted to be the host city for this event that combines our local history with classic automobile design," said Kim Bennett, president and CEO of the Vancouver USA Regional Tourism Office. "Officers Row is the perfect location for these car enthusiasts to share their automotive treasures and take us back in time to another era of technology and art."

Concours d'Elegance events date back to the late 1700s when wealthy Parisians rode up and down the Champs Elysees showing off their elegant coaches. This parade became known as the Parade of Elegance, the English translation of Concours d'Elegance. As time progressed, the automobile began to replace the coach and subsequently custom coach builders started producing elegant works of automotive art. The parade became motorized and the Concours d'Elegance, as we know it today, was born.

"The Concours is not a speed event, but one of elegance and excellence," said Columbia River Concours d'Elegance Administrator Tom Markos. "Vehicles are judged for their historical accuracy, their technical merit, elegance and style."

Awards for Best in Show, Best in Class, and Second and Third in Class will be presented. "Specialty Awards" may also be given for cars of unusual merit. Cars may be entered in nearly four dozen classes representing virtually all the classic and collectible marques. Visitors can expect to see such famous names as Jaguar, Bentley, Ferrari, Mercedes Benz, Alpha Romeo,

Austin Healey, MG, Porsche, Triumph, Cadillac, Corvette, Lincoln, Morgan, and a host of others. Last year was the first show held in Vancouver, with more than 100 cars featured and approximately 1,000 spectators.

The 2011 Columbia River Concours d'Elegance starts at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 7, on Officers Row in downtown Vancouver. The awards ceremony will take place at 2:30 p.m., and the show concludes at 4:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on the event website in advance for \$8 for adults or at the gate for \$10; admission is free for youth ages 12 and under. To purchase tickets and for more information, visit <http://www.columbiariverconcours.com/HomePage11.html>.

**About Vancouver USA Regional Tourism Office**

Vancouver USA Regional Tourism Office (formerly Southwest Washington Convention & Visitors Bureau) is an economic development organization responsible for competitively marketing Vancouver and the surrounding area as a destination for meetings, conventions, and group and leisure travelers. The organization's mission is to promote Vancouver and Clark County by increasing convention and visitor business. For more information call 877-224-4214, or log on to [www.VisitVancouverUSA.com](http://www.VisitVancouverUSA.com).

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