

Evans Garage

What: *Alfa Romeo* Owners Clubs of San Diego and Southern California

Special Event

Where: *Evans Garage*, 4953 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92110

When: Saturday, October 17, 2009, 11 AM to 2 PM

Cost: Just \$30 per person/lunch included, reservations at hillarygriffith@cox.net by **October 10!**

October 17: Join the *Alfa Romeo* Owners Clubs of San Diego and Southern California and friends of the Clubs for a catered buffet luncheon and docent guided tour of the *Evans Garage*. The event starts at 11 AM and ends at 2 PM.

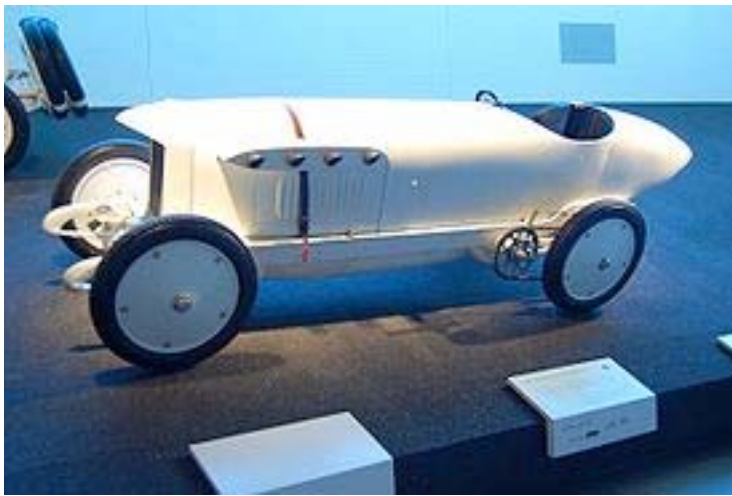
The *Evans Garage* was created in 1983 by William Evans, Sr., a San Diego hotelier extraordinaire. His son, Bill Evans, Jr., Vice President of the hotel group which includes the *Bahia* and *Catamaran* Hotels, now carries the torch forward for this interesting local museum.

Bill Evans mentioned recently that the museum offers automobiles and a fire engine on display dating from 1886 through 1962, as well as antique clothing, furniture, stained glass windows, and Persian carpets. Bill's favorites for our visit are the blue 1911 Bianchi of which only nine were built, the white 1911 Blitzen Benz which the *Evans Garage* built from new old stock with the blessing of the Mercedes Benz factory, and the red 1913 Isotta Fraschini which raced at the Indianapolis 500 and is in excellent but unrestored condition. Red, white and blue: don't miss these gems!

The **Bianchi** on display was built for an Italian Army general. When you see this car, you will know you have a work of art before you. The lines of the body, the brass headlamps, and the detailed restoration on this car are exceptional. Bianchi was founded in 1885 as a bicycle manufacturer. Automobile design was started in

1899. The brand went through many evolutions but finally ended in 1995 while part of the Fiat group.

The original **Blitzen Benz** was built in 1909 by Benz & Cie, the company founded by Karl Benz in 1879. Benz is credited with producing the world's first commercially available automobile in 1886. The Blitzen Benz had a 21.5 liter, 200 HP engine which helped propel it to 125.94 MPH on November 9, 1909 at Brooklands, a record which stood for ten more years. Evans Garage built the highly accurate replica on display with Mercedes Benz collaboration.



1909 Blitzen Benz

The **Isotta Fraschini** also comes with a pedigree. The company was formed by two men, Isotta and Fraschini, in 1900 in Milan, Italy. The innovative company is credited with the first eight cylinder engine. The cars were raced by such notables as Enzo Ferrari and Alfieri Maserati. The splendid example on display for our tour raced at Indy. The last Isotta Fraschini rolled off the factory floor in 1949.

Bill Evans will be in Elba, Italy at an historic automobile event driving the supercharged Alfa Romeo 8C 2300 that won Le Mans in 1934 while we're visiting the Evans Garage in San Diego. Alfas won at Le Mans in 1932, 1933, and 1934, finishing a close second in 1935.