

Minter Magic at Scottsdale 2014

All kinds of records were set at the new world's largest tent Marquee (now in the "Guinness Book of Records") at the greatly improved/expanded Barrett-Jackson Auction site this year. Perfect sunny weather in the 70s attracted a record 300,000 attendees during the weeklong event. It was a great opportunity to do people watching in addition to checking out all the 1400 auction vehicles including cars, boats, motorcycles, firetrucks, a 1922 Carousel, RVs, a Cessna L19 plane and hundreds of Automobilia items.

The media likes to focus on the stars of the show and here are some of their favorites. 1967 Corvette L88, one of 20 built and Red on Red....\$3,500,000 plus 10% buyer's fee. 1969 Corvette L88 "Rebel" race car.....\$2, 860,000 incl. 10% buyer's fee. 1957 "E" code Thunderbird.....world record \$300,000 plus 10% buyer's fee.

Yes, that "E" Bird sale was a Barrett-Jackson moment that does not occur very often. The media along with everyone at the auction certainly took notice of the Gun Metal Gray "E" Bird's show-stopping sale and it's not surprising that it was a "Minter Bird".

Amos Minter has been bringing some of the finest '55-'57 Thunderbirds to Barrett-Jackson since the 70s (B-J started in 1971) and we have been watching him set records along the way. So just what is his secret? Over the years Mary and I have been trying to determine what it is. Every year before Amos's car crosses the block Mary asks Amos "which T-Bird color is the most popular this year". One year it will be Peacock Blue, then Sea Foam Green, then Torch Red, etc. This year he said it was Gun Metal Gray (the dark gray). Well, he was right on. Amos said he, his wife Amy, his son Justin and painter Kirk agonized for 4 days mixing the Gun Metal Gray paint color to perfection and it was Amy who had the final say. Could Amy be part of the secret? Well, one thing for sure, this year she was part of the "Minter Magic". Congratulations and thanks to the entire Minter family for a record setting Barrett-Jackson moment.

There was no 1957 "F" Supercharged Thunderbird sold at Barrett-Jackson this year, but across town at the high-end RM auction a Flame Red '57 "F" sold for \$200,000.it was a Minter restoration in 2008. RM also sold a 1958 Ferrari 250 GT Calif. Spider for \$8.8 million!

In all the \$113+ million worth of cars sold this year at B-J (\$108 million last year), were there any cars that the little guy could afford? I doubt the media reported this, but a nice looking green 1981 Cadillac Seville 4 dr found a new home for \$1100 incl. the 10% buyer's fee.

I recently saw it reported that there is a shortage of the "High End" collector cars. Do you suppose that the bidders in the front row and the Sky Box seats really don't have enough cars to choose from? Well, if so, that problem should be corrected next year.

Barrett-Jackson VP Steve Davis announced that the fabulous Ron Pratte collection which is housed in a museum setting in Chandler, AZ will be sold at B-J next year. Remember Ron? He bought nothing but high-end cars like the \$4.1 million GM tour bus and the \$5 million Carroll Shelby Super Snake Cobra and the late George Watts \$600,000 first production 1955 Thunderbird.

So check out the Barrett-Jackson website for [all the](#) 2014 results and don` t miss the 2015 record breaking Barrett-Jackson [ultimate](#) experience coming up [next year](#).

Stewart & Mary Wright
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