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FIAT Fans Celebrate 35th Annual 'FreakOut'

- FIAT Club America celebrated its 35th annual "FIAT FreakOut" event in Florida, Aug. 16-19
- Hundreds of FIAT owners and aficionados attended the four-day event in Orlando
- Activities included scenic driving tours throughout Disney properties, Florida orange groves and backwoods to the Lakeridge Winery
- Festive-themed meals and banquets included a private dessert party at the Italy showcase in Epcot
- Main event Concorso Di Eleganza car display and awards banquet showcased FIAT vehicles that spanned multiple decades
- Special guest Anneliese Abarth, the wife and partner of the late, legendary automotive designer Carlo Abarth, served as keynote speaker at the annual members banquet
- Next year's FIAT FreakOut to be held in Greensboro, North Carolina, from July 10-14

August 20, 2018, Auburn Hills, Mich. - Hundreds of FIAT owners and Abarth performance-car aficionados from throughout North America gathered in Orlando this past week as FIAT Club America celebrated its 35th annual "FIAT FreakOut" (FFO) national convention.

"The passion and loyalty of FIAT fans were on full display at this year's FreakOut," said Steve Beahm, Head of Passenger Car Brands – Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and FIAT, FCA – North America. "With a full range of fun-to-drive vehicles spanning multiple decades, this is the perfect annual event for owners to celebrate FIAT's iconic Italian heritage and design."

Held at Walt Disney World and nearby attractions, organizers tabbed this year's event as "The Most Magical FreakOut on Earth." The event registered as one of the most highly attended national conventions in FIAT Club America's history. A husband and wife even drove their 2017 Fiat 124 Spider cross-country from Tacoma, Washington, to attend this year's festivities.

Created and executed by FIAT enthusiasts, the FFO event is a fun-filled, annual four-day event that rotates throughout the country. This year's event included driving tours throughout Disney properties and a scenic trip through orange groves and Florida's backwoods to the Lakeridge Winery. Members were also treated to festive-themed meals, including a private dessert party at the Italy showcase in Epcot. The main event was the Concorso Di Eleganza vintage car display, which was followed by a banquet and award ceremony.

The oldest vehicle that appeared in this year's Concorso Di Eleganza was a 1952 Fiat 500c Topolino. Other vehicles on hand included a 1977 Lancia Scorpion, 1984 Pininfarina Spider Volumex, 1986 Bertone X 1/9 Dallara, a highly modified 2008 Fiat 500 Abarth Meifestofile and an original factory-raced Fiat Abarth 131 rally car from the collection of John Campion.

A highlight of the gathering included the attendance of Anneliese Abarth, the wife and partner of the late Carlo Abarth, who served as the keynote speaker during the members annual banquet. As the widow of the legendary automotive designer, she carries on his legacy, actively representing Abarth at classic car events and international club meetings throughout the world.

"Each year, we strive for the FIAT FreakOut to be the best ever," said Doug Von Koenig, president of FIAT Club America. "And this year we achieved that goal by providing our members with a thrilling experience at Disney and

having Anneliese Abarth on hand as our keynote speaker.”

At the conclusion of the members banquet, the club announced that the 2019 Fiat FreakOut will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 10 -14.

About FIAT Club America

FIAT Club America was founded in 1983 and has been loyally dedicated to the enjoyment of FIAT brand vehicles and other Italian cars since. The club has local chapters holding regional shows and events. The annual national convention called “FIAT FreakOut” was held August 16-19 in Orlando, Florida. This event draws hundreds of FIAT and other Italian automobiles and even more attendees. FIAT Club America maintains a website www.FiatClubAmerica.com and publishes “Ricambi,” its official, full-color bi-monthly magazine, which includes member-written articles, adventure stories, technical tips and classified ads.

FIAT Brand

FIAT brand celebrates 125 years as an automaker and some things haven't changed. Iconic Italian design and refinement, plus a fun-to-drive factor, come standard with every Fiat.

In early 2024, FIAT brand will launch the [Fiat 500e](#), the first Stellantis retail battery-electric vehicle offering in North America and the best-selling city EV in Europe.

FIAT is part of the portfolio of brands offered by leading global automaker and mobility provider Stellantis. For more information regarding Stellantis (NYSE: STLA), please visit www.stellantis.com

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