

## Alfa Romeo Featured Marque for 2020 Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen – “Alfa 2020”

### For release:

September 11, 2020 - Watkins Glen, NY – The streets of Watkins Glen will be filled with Alfa Romeos for the annual Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen. In addition to Alfa Romeo being the featured marque for the Stone Bridge Drive Tour de Marque event on Friday, there is a special day-long Alfa-only event on Thursday – Lakewood Vineyards Alfa Romeo Show and Journey to The Top. These events are part of the Stone Bridge Driver events sponsored by the Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen – [www.grandprixfestival.com](http://www.grandprixfestival.com).

The Sportscar Vintage Racing Association (SVRA) will also feature Alfa Romeo for the weekend races at the Hilliard United States Vintage Grand Prix at Watkins Glen International RaceTrack (WGI).

Thursday, September 10 Alfa owners will assemble in LaFayette Park for the Lakewood Vineyards Alfa Romeo Show and Journey to the Top – an opportunity to meet other Alfa owners, show and admire their Alfa Romeos, and visit with Alfa Romeo Owners Club members from several regions.

The Alfa Romeo *only* car show begins at 10:00 a.m. in LaFayette Park and concludes at 2:00 p.m. with awards. The cars then depart for a fun rallye-style tour through the beautiful Finger Lakes countryside, with a stop at event sponsor Lakewood Vineyards. All registered participants will receive a complimentary bottle of wine. After the wine tasting, participants can flex their Alfa’s handling as they continue along the rallye tour to end at the Top of the Lake restaurant located, well, at the top of Keuka Lake. Incidentally, Keuka is one of two “Y-shaped” lakes in the entire world, the other being Lake Como in Italy, just north of Milano – coincidence? Or, perhaps fate brings these beautiful cars to an equally beautiful area? Participants return to their lodgings at their own pace to prepare for more Festival activities.

Friday, September 11 the Tour de Marque (TDM) Alfa Romeos will convene at Chateau LaFayette Reneau winery on the east side of Seneca Lake at 8:00 a.m. for registration and socializing. The TDM cars will then depart the winery at 9:15 a.m. for a rallye route that ends at Watkins Glen International RaceTrack for brunch. The TDM Alfas stage for two laps of the world famous WGI course at noon, after which they will head into downtown Watkins Glen for their two laps of the historic Original Grand Prix Course. After these two exciting laps, the Alfas will assemble at LaFayette Park for display parking. The park is just a block east of Franklin Street – the “front straight” of the Original Course, where all event cars take laps throughout the afternoon. The TDM registration includes weekend tickets to the SVRA races. Register at [www.grandprixfestival.com](http://www.grandprixfestival.com) and select **Stone Bridge Driver** events from the menu.

All event cars are parked in various locations in the Village of Watkins Glen in close proximity to Franklin Street, beginning with Glenora Run cars to the north end and ending at the Concours de Elegance in Watkins Glen State Park at the historic Start/Finish line, with all Stone Bridge Driver events displayed in many locations along the way. There are restaurants, bars and breweries along Franklin Street, along with street vendors, music, cars and thousands of car enthusiasts. The air will resound with the distinctive sound of Alfa engines at various pitches as they round the corner at 4<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Streets before coming down the straight, then braking and heading up Old Corning Road.

On the Courthouse Lawn across the street from Concours, Alfa Romeo Owners Club Buffalo Chapter will have a booth with club information and a display of beautiful, historically significant Alfas. Artists, collectible vendors, and organizations have displays on the lawn.

At 4:45 p.m. the SVRA racecars will arrive downtown to stage for the Heritage Laps of the Original Course. After these laps are complete, the Heritage cars will be on display on Franklin Street, starting at the Start/Finish line and progressing north to fill Franklin Street. The drivers are available to visit and for photos with the cars.

The SVRA races take place Saturday and Sunday at Watkins Glen International RaceTrack. Contact [www.theGlen.com](http://www.theGlen.com) for tickets. There is a car show at WGI on Saturday; the car show registration includes laps of the track with the other car show participants and one (1) weekend ticket to the races.

All in all, this is a great weekend of vintage cars and enthusiasts, events and racing, and is an unmatched opportunity to show off our beautiful Italian cars, in a beautiful, historic setting, rich with racing history. The surrounding area offers spectacular scenery around beautiful lakes, wineries, breweries and other craft beverage and food emporiums, great museums and other cultural attractions. Festival day, in addition to eight other Stone Bridge Driver events, other activities will be taking place including Tech Inspection Reenactment at Smalley's Garage, Walk of Fame induction ceremony, and the Legends Speak in LaFayette Park. The website [www.grandprixfestival.com](http://www.grandprixfestival.com) has times and details on all events.

Alfa Romeo Owners Club national, chapters, and members are invited to join the fun and festivities and represent the vintage and recent Alfa Romeo vehicles. The Thursday Alfas to The Top event invites AROC chapters to be represented and participate in that planning.

For a quick look at the activities, check out the website: [www.grandprixfestival.com](http://www.grandprixfestival.com). For weekend Alfa Romeo racing information, visit [alfasattheglen.com](http://alfasattheglen.com)

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As an AlfaBuff member, with Alfa Owners of New England secondary membership, and the chair of the Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen Stone Bridge Driver Glenora Run and Grist Iron Brewery Grand Ramble events, Terrie Sautter has offered to be the initial point of contact for any discussion of AROC member participation as well as questions about the various elements of the Festival. Feel free to contact: Terrie Sautter, [alfagirl56@gmail.com](mailto:alfagirl56@gmail.com) or leave message at 607-243-7845 and I will return your call.