



## Air | Water 2024

By Caden Wright

Over 1,000 Porsches and one sunny day in Orange County, California. Could anything be more perfect? We reckon there might not be a better combination that has ever existed (although a nice bottle of red with Ragù alla Bolognese gives it a run for its money). Luckily for thousands of attendees at the second-ever Air | Water event, that is exactly what they experienced.

For those who have been living under a rock, Air | Water is the sister company of the famous Luftgekühlt company. Since its first event in 2014, Luftgekühlt (German for “air-cooled”) has provided some of the most stunning, vibrant, and well-organized displays of Porsche pedigree the world has ever seen. As the name suggests, however, these events have all been limited to the air-cooled genre of Porsches; a.k.a. pre-996 911’s and a fun few racers.

Air | Water was created in 2023 to be a much more inclusive Porsche event, this one encompassing every car from the prestigious marque. Yes, that includes 924’s, 944’s, 968’s, Caymans, Boxsters, Cayennes, Macans, 918’s, Carrera GT’s, and even *Taycan*s if you can stomach it. In the words of Air | Water: “It’s everything Porsche”. Let me assure you, it absolutely was.

The event was brilliantly organized with entire sections dedicated to many of these unique Porsche categories. At the center, like a crown jewel, was a live auction held during the event by Broad Arrow – Hagerty’s exclusive car auction house. The auction featured several stunners including multiple 911 RSRs, a 918 Spyder, a Carrera GT, a 1969 908/02 Langheck Spyder (fetching the auction crown at \$4.7 million), and a personal favorite 993 911 GT2. When you got bored of seeing priceless Rolex’s flailing in the air, grabbing the attention of the auctioneer to lock in the next \$100k increment in the bidding process, a long wander around the fairgrounds provided spectators with all the Porsche fanfare and vitamin D they could want.

The Safari section was an enjoyable addition to the standard road racers you would expect to find at a Porsche event. Devoted largely to Porsche’s rich history in rally racing (recently celebrated by the marque with the release of the 911 Dakar), there was a plethora of rally-inspired race cars sporting off-road tires, lift-kits, skid plates, and safari-themed liveries. Alongside the off-road racers were the overlanders; a segment of the Porsche community that is rapidly growing. Cayennes and Macans fitted with massive fenders, bigger tires, and rooftop tents lined the path to-and-fro the safari cars.

Another stunning section was the All-White gallery (I call it a gallery because it certifiably contained art). If you are perceptive, you may have ascertained that the All-White gallery consisted of only white cars. Set against a modern architectural background, the gallery felt more like an exclusive Hollywood Hills mansion party – with the cars to match. 911’s of every generation, 356’s, Caymans, 968’s, and a cheeky 918 – all in white – could be observed in the sunny, outdoor gallery. In the center of the gallery was a 1991 Footwork Arrows FA12. You might think, “Footwork Arrows? That’s a funny way to spell Porsche,” but allow me to explain: the FA12 is a Formula One car that (albeit briefly and dreadfully unsuccessfully) sported a Porsche-developed V12 and was therefore allowed into the event. Technically it was a Porsche, but more importantly, it was *cool as hell*.



There were other sections as well. One devoted to Gunterwerks, another devoted to Singer; each providing an opportunity to see just how special the 911 can be made when cost is relegated to an afterthought. Singer also provided a very rare opportunity to see a current Le Mans Hypercar off-track. The section displayed their famous gold #12 Porsche 963 Hypercar, currently competing in the FIA World Endurance Championship, alongside their stunning restomods.

Air | Water 2024 was a show of force from the Porsche community. Over 1,000 cars and many, many more attendees enjoyed a spectacular day under the Southern California sun. The



community is thriving, Porsche values continue to rise, the overland segment is growing rapidly, and flat 6's still induce a pounding in your chest like little else. Our only regret was that the event ended at 3 pm. Personally, I could have handled a few more hours.

