

# Jay Leno

Star of NBC's *The Tonight Show*, Jay Leno is a leading figure in the genre of light-hearted one-on-one talk shows. His nightly monologues on the late-night shows are accompanied by famous guests and snappily titled comedy

segments such as 'Jaywalking'. The show made history last year by being the first late-night programme to host an acting president when Leno welcomed President Barack Obama.

Prior to hosting the Emmy Award-winning *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, he perfected his comedy in clubs all over the United States, often exceeding 300 dates per year. Although he permanently took charge of the show in 1992, Leno continues to tour in the comedy circle and averages more than 150 gigs a year.

But when he's not cracking jokes or hosting celebrities, Leno can be found with his cars. In fact, they are more like toys for the comedian, who collects them in his private 5,000 square-metre garage.

With a 200-plus vehicle collection, half of which are cars and the rest motorcycles, Leno carefully states on his website [JayLenosGarage.com](http://JayLenosGarage.com) that the garage is not a museum; neither does he purchase them as museum pieces.

That is because he enjoys driving each and every one of the vehicles, which include rare cars such as a Bugatti Atlantic, a Monteverde, and a turbine motorcycle.

Leno's biggest infatuation is with vintage cars; he owns a 1955 Buick, a 1956 Chrysler Imperial, a Stanley Steamer, a 1966 Dodge Coronet Hemi and a 1932 Packard Twin Six 12-cylinder Coupe. His favourite is said to be the McLaren F1, which was the fastest car on the planet in 1998.

These classic beauties don't stay indoors as Leno often drives them around the freeways of Los Angeles and shows them off at exhibitions and on various television programmes.

Leno's managerial side comes to play at the garage, where he employs a team of mechanical geniuses who can fix, restore and customise just about every type of vehicle that exists. A professional, Swiss-born mechanic-racer heads the team.

The image of the celebrity Leno in mechanic's overalls is more realistic than comical. One wonders if his garage staff appreciate his witty remarks and sarcastic comments as well as the millions of viewers that watch his show. ■

