

Most Expensive Buick GNX sells for...

Barrett-Jackson Palm Beach 2015 has produced the most expensive Buick GNX ever sold. How much?

The 1987 Buick Regal GNX was a wonder in its time, and even by today's standards, is still impressive. When these cars were new, they were among the quickest cars money could buy. They all started out as fully-optioned Buick Regal Grand Nationals (except t-tops or sunroof, because of structural rigidity concerns), but then were sent to ASC/McLaren for additional enhancement.

Only 574 GNX cars were produced. The 3.8 V6 had a Garrett hybrid turbocharger pumping out 15 pounds of boost, and an air-to-air intercooler. The transmission was upgraded to handle the extra power as well. All told, the 1987 Buick Regal GNX was good for 300 horsepower and a staggering 404 lb.-ft. of torque, which was enough to send it down the 1/4 mile in 13.2 seconds. Oh, and it could complete the sprint from 0-60 mph in just 4.7 seconds. In 1987.

Because these cars were built in such limited numbers, they are incredibly desirable to collectors today. They are all equally optioned, and every one of them is black, but to see one is a true experience. I saw GNX #001 at the GM Heritage Center last year, and it was glorious. This example, however, is the most expensive Buick GNX ever sold, and for good reason.

Everyone knows that auction fever is real. If you've ever shopped on eBay, you know exactly what I'm talking about. That item you're bidding on that you want is right there, but someone else wants it, too. You can have it, so long as you're willing to bid just one more dollar, or ten dollars, or one hundred dollars.

Or, in the case of the most expensive Buick GNX ever sold, a few thousand dollars. How many is a few? Well, let's put this into perspective.

The previous record for the most expensive Buick GNX ever sold was set back in 2014. It was at Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale, and it sold for \$106,000. It had 11 miles on the odometer. No, that's not 11k, 1100, or some sort of typo. Eleven. Miles. It was #442, and is the lowest mileage GNX known to exist.

The car that sold on April 18th is certainly AMONG the lowest mileage GNXs. It had, at the time of sale, only 362 miles on the odometer. This Buick GNX still had its original plastic on the seats, its window sticker, books, manuals, and all other paperwork.

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Here it is as I saw it, waiting to be rolled up to the auction block.[/caption]

In these photos below, you can see just what a true ultra-low mileage survivor car looks like. These cars are special. Every day, fewer and fewer of them exist. I am torn on their existence, personally. On one hand, this is still the most expensive Buick GNX ever sold, and is a great example of a time capsule depicting a moment in American performance history. On the other hand, this is wasted potential. It is incredibly unlikely that this car will ever be seen turning the 13-second quarter mile times it is capable of. You won't hear the turbo V6 scream as it rockets from 0-60 and leaves you in awe of its black silhouette - in fact, it's very possible that this car has never even SEEN speeds approaching 60 miles per hour, and on some level, that's depressing.

[caption id="attachment_3368" align="aligncenter" width="1024"]

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A symbol of beauty, perfection, and wasted potential. Tragic.[/caption]

Here are additional photos, provided in the original listing on the Barrett-Jackson auction run list, that show the well-preserved state of the vehicle:

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This car sold for an incredible \$165,000, making it far and away the most expensive Buick GNX ever sold. What do you think? Good deal or a turbocharged ripoff?

If <u>this Hemmings listing</u> is any indication, we have someone who caught auction fever - big time - and way overpaid. You can click there to buy GNX #496, with just 127 original miles, all of its paperwork, and the plastic on its seats just like this car, for ONLY \$79,900... or best offer.

Who is correct? Are these cars about to increase in value even further? Only time will tell. One thing's for sure, though: they are seriously cool, seriously rare, and certainly special to see and experience.