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eneva is a show I never, ever miss. I've attended Europe's definitively best new car show for 25 years on the trot now. My silver jubilee at the show was suitably celebrated by the sight of the all-silver interior of Marcello Gandini's sublime Lamborghini Marzal of 1967. What a searingly original car that must have seemed back then; even today, it's a fantasy of the first order.

The fact that 50-year old cars like the Marzal, as well as Giugiaro's Testudo and the Bizzarrini Manta, were my stars of the show speaks volumes about the current state of car design. Where were the classic shapes that we'll look back on in 50 years? Where was the imagination to inspire a generation for whom cars seem less and less relevant? Not much to report in that department. Most design houses (and there are precious few left, it must be said) had electric/autonomous vehicles that were dimensionally huge, and often seemed pointless.

But what I can say is that retro was definitely in. Classics were on show in amongst the new cars on just about every stand. 'New-old' designs were there, too, like the New Stratos which reinterprets the 1970s original, and the Microlino which revives the spirit of the 1950s Iso Isetta.

One arena that's definitely alive and kicking is supercars, which were out in abundance at Geneva, too. As well as the huge crowds gravitating towards the new Ferrari 488 Pista (including me - see the mug shot above), there were Italian treats from Lamborghini, Pagani, Touring, Zagato and many more. For the full gen on Geneva, turn to page 12.

> **Chris Rees** Editor chrisrees@auto-italia.net

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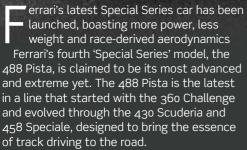
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NEWS & VIEWS FERRARI 488 PISTA

MOST POTENT FERRARI V8 EVER



10-1

It uses the most powerful eight-cylinder engine Ferrari has ever built, plus enhanced transmission, better brakes, increased downforce, sharpened electronic control systems and less weight. Ferrari has borrowed extensively from its racing experience with the 488 GTE and 488 Challenge one-make series.

The main target centres on power-toweight. The 3.9-litre twin-turbo V8 engine boasts 720hp – 50hp more than the 488 GTB. It achieves this by using over 50 per cent new components compared to the 488 GTB's. There's a better air intake layout, a larger intercooler, inverted radiators, new valves and springs, harder cam profiles, stronger pistons and cylinder heads, Inconel exhaust manifolds, lighter crankshaft/flywheel and titanium conrods. As for weight reduction, Ferrari has saved gokg by using more carbonfibre in the chassis/body, including the bumpers and both front and rear bonnets (the latter a first for Ferrari). A significant new option for Ferrari is carbon wheels, which save 40 per cent in unsprung mass. The cabin is stripped out; it's even possible to delete the infotainment system to save weight.

Acceleration from 0-62mph is 2.85 seconds but more impressively 124mph is reached in 7.6 seconds (a full 1.5sec faster than the 458 Speciale).

The 488 Pista's control systems are also



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FERRARI 488 PISTA

ENGINE:	3902cc V8
POWER:	720hp at 8
FORQUE:	770Nm at
COMPRESSION RATIO:	9.58:1
FRANSMISSION:	7-speed du
BRAKES:	398 x 223
	360 x 233
TYRES:	245/35 ZR
	305/30 ZR
DIMENSIONS:	4605mm (
	1206mm (
WEIGHT:	1280kg
FUEL CONSUMPTION:	24.3mpg
02:	263g/km
MAX SPEED:	211mph
0-62MPH:	2.85sec
PRICE:	£252,695

902cc V8 twin-turbo 20hp at 8000rpm 70Nm at 3000rpm .58:1 -speed dual-clutch automatic 98 x 223 x 38mm (front), 60 x 233 x 32mm (rear) 45/35 ZR20 (front), 05/30 ZR20 (rear) 605mm (L), 1975mm (W), 206mm (H) 280kg 4.3mpg 63g/km 11mph .85sec 552 605



significantly sharpened. A new gearshift strategy in Race mode shortens shift times. Braking performance is boosted thanks to parts borrowed from the 488 Challenge racer. A new Ferrari Dynamic Enhancer (FDE) forms part of the Sideslip Angle Control 6 system, giving the driver a more intuitive and

2017: A RECORD YEAR FOR FERRARI

Ferrari delivered a record-breaking 8398 cars in 2017, up by 384 (or 4.8 per cent). The company's net revenues were up 10 per cent, while net profit rose by 26.4 per cent to 537 million euros.

The rise was driven by a 25.1 per cent increase in V12 sales, notably the GTC4Lusso and 812 Superfast, as well as the LaFerrari Aperta. V8 sales were not as strong because of the phase-out of the California T (production of the new Portofino starts in the second quarter of 2018).

France, Italy and the UK all grew at doubledigit pace. The biggest market remained Europe/Middle East (3610 sales), followed by the Americas (2811), China/Hong Kong/Taiwan (619) and the rest of the world (1098). Ferrari says it is targeting over gooo sales in 2018. immediate feel on the limit.

Aerodynamic downforce is boosted thanks to upgrades sourced from the 488 GTE racer. The rear spoiler is larger, while the front 'S-Duct' increases downforce and its plunging shape is underlined by race-inspired stripes that swoop under the front bumper.





ALFA'S F1 CAR DEBUTS

The Alfa Romeo Sauber F1 Team has launched its new car, the C37, which will be raced by Marcus Ericsson and Charles Leclerc. Alfa Romeo's 'Quadrifoglio' triangle features on the engine cover, while the Alfa badge adorns the nose and many aerodynamic areas of the bodywork.

The team's target in 2018 is "to catch up with the field and continue improving our performance," says Frédéric Vasseur, Team Principal. "The return of Alfa Romeo to Formula 1 sets another milestone in the team's history, and I am proud that such a historical brand has chosen us for their return to the sport."

NEWS



NEW FIAT 500 COLLEZIONE

Fiat has launched a new 500 Collezione edition with a choice of colour schemes. Livery options include Primavera (two-tone white and grey), Acquamarina (two-tone white and green), plus Taormina Ivory, Bossa Nova White and Epic Blue. Other features include chrome trim for the bumper, bonnet and mirror caps and exclusive 16-inch alloy wheels. The Fiat 500 Collezione is only available with the 1.2 6ghp petrol engine, but in both hatch and convertible body styles. It's on sale now, priced from £13,865.



FIAT 500X REFRESH

A simplified line-up and new infotainment system mark out the 2018 Fiat 500X. A seven-inch touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto is standard on most models, offering music streaming, messaging and navigation. The 500X range now consists of three trim levels, three petrol engines and two diesels. Marching Green paint (pictured) is now available on Cross Plus models. The 500X is priced from £15,550.



FIAT 500L REACHES 500K

The 500,000th Fiat 500L has rolled off the production line in Serbia. Launched in 2012 and refreshed in 2017, the 500L has consistently been the best-selling car in its class in Europe, with a 22 per cent segment share in Europe, and 52 per cent in Italy.

HURACÁN SMASHES RECORDS

The Lamborghini Huracán Performante has taken the production car lap-time records on eight international circuits. All have been set during press trials and include Vairano and Balocco in Italy (1min 9.43sec and 2min 38.07sec respectively), MIRA in the UK (1min 5.03sec) and Le Mans Bugatti in France (1min 42.49sec).

In March 2018, the Huracán also marked a production milestone when the 10,000th example rolled off the assembly line. Destined for a customer in Canada, it's a Performante model whose Verde Mantis paint scheme pays homage to Lamborghini's GT₃ victory in the 2018 Daytona 24 Hours race.



AUCTION RECORD FOR EVO II

A rare 1995 Lancia integrale Evoluzione II 'Dealer's Collection' edition has broken an auction record. Sold by RM Sotheby's at its 2018 Paris sale, it made €161,000, or around £142,500. It's one of only 180 examples of the special edition ever made. Painted pearl red with beige leather trim, this was one of the last integrales produced, and has covered just 20,700km from new.



ROSSO FIORAVANTI

The National Automobile Museum in Turin (MAUTO) has opened a new 'Rosso Fioravanti' exhibition paying homage to the designer, Leonardo Fioravanti, who designed many Ferraris for Pininfarina, including the Daytona and 308. He was also Maranello's general manager from 1987 and went on to Fiat before setting up his own independent company. The exhibition runs until 16 September.





TJAARDA WINE RELEASED

A new Tom Tjaarda wine collection has been released. Described as, "Tjaarda's final project and memento for his followers", it's authorised by Paola Tjaarda and personally numbered by her. The set includes three bottles of wine from Tom's favourite wineries with labels designed by him; two wine glasses with Tom Tjaarda's signature etched in; a copy of a 'Profiles' litho numbered by Paola Tjaarda; a certificate of authenticity; and a wooden box. This set is limited to 500, priced at \$350 each. Go to treasuresofpiemonte.com to order.

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NEWS

FERRARI MUSEUM: ENZO'S 120TH

Enzo Ferrari was born 120 years ago, on 18 February 1898, and now the Enzo Ferrari Museum is celebrating with a photo exhibition.

"It seems incredible to think that Enzo Ferrari was born in the 19th century," said Ferrari Chairman, Sergio Marchionne. "He was a man with extraordinary vision and ability to manage people and resources as well as a strong entrepreneurial spirit and exceptional courage. The mark that he left on the world remains a source of pride for all of us at Ferrari and for the whole of Italy."

To celebrate the 120th anniversary, a photographic exhibition has been organised at the Enzo Ferrari Museum in Modena, Enzo's birthplace. It includes images from childhood to adulthood, his career as a driver, manager and manufacturer, alongside champions like Nuvolari, Castellotti and Villeneuve.



FRANZONI AUTO CLASSIC

A new Brescia-based classic car division has been set up by a Fiat and Lancia dealer. Franzoni Auto Classic is dedicated to classic and collectible cars, and also hosts events aimed at classic car enthusiasts. It's based at Via Valcamonica in Brescia. For more info, visit www.franzoniauto.com



CHALLENGE & GT DAYS

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Ferrari Challenge race series, a new event dedicated to Ferrari racers is being run. Organised by Heinz Swoboda, an Austrian collector who owns Roberto Ragazzi's 1993 championship-winning 348 Challenge, it's called Challenge & GT Days. It takes place on 9–10 May 2018 at the Red Bull Ring in Austria, giving owners of Challenge and GT Ferraris the chance for track action in a non-competitive environment. Cars invited include the 348 Challenge, F355 Challenge, F40 LM, 458 GTE, and 575 GTC. More info at www.fchgt.com



Milltek Sport has launched a range of performance exhausts for the Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio. The range starts with an axle-back system, making it sound more aggressive via electronically controlled valves that toggle the volume and exhaust note.

A second cat-back option comes in either resonated or non-resonated forms, the latter much louder. Both are claimed to deliver "significant improvements" in performance via 70mm stainless steel pipes.

Also on offer is an Active Valve Controller Module that allows the exhaust valves to run fully open without the Giulia having to be in Race Mode (which disables all driver aids). More at www.millteksport.com

STAR SUPERCARS

STUMBLE AT AUCTION Three classic cars with star-studded histories failed to sell at the recent Bonhams Goodwood Members' Meeting auction. Paul McCartney's 1967 Lamborghini 400 GT, one of only 250 built and only four imported to the UK, did not reach its £400,000-



 \pm 500,000 estimate. McCartney acquired it in February 1968, when The Beatles were at the height of their popularity.

Next up was Rod Stewart's 1991 Lamborghini Diablo, which Stewart reportedly bought for himself as a Christmas present following the success of his 'Vagabond Heart' album. It didn't reach its £120,000-£140,000 target. Nor did Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason's 1974 Ferrari Dino 246 GT Spider, reputed to be one of only 21 models ordered with flared wheelarches. The estimate of £375,000-£425,000 did not result in a sale.

BEST OF ITALY 2018

The Best of Italy Race returns on 14-16 September 2018 to Castell'Arquato in Emiglia Romagna.

Many anniversaries will be celebrated: 50 years of the Lamborghini Espada and Islero; 50 Years of Italdesign; 25 years of Lamborghini Club Italia and 25 years of the Ducati Monster and 916, among others.

The event will feature a Pagani Zonda R pace car, the Italdesign Zerouno Roadster, Giannini 350 G4, Mazzanti Millecavalli, Alfa Romeo 8C racer, Maserati MC12 GT1, Ferrari 599XX, Zanasi Emerald Enzo and more.

'Parco Chiuso' will host 150 top Italian motorcycles , with riders tackling the 26km course alongside racing greats like Stefano Bonetti, Marco Dall'Aglio, Marco Lucchinelli and Giacomo Agostini.

An exclusive Varano Track Day will feature Lamborghinis of all models, with a climax on Saturday in a spectacular display on the Mignano Dam. Find out more at www.bestofitalyrace.com





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GENEVA 2018

New cars from Ferrari and Lamborghini, plus some retro concept greats, made Geneva a must-visit show for Italian car fans

Story & images by Chris Rees



FERRARI 488 PISTA

The undoubted star of the 2018 Geneva Motor Show was Ferrari's new 488 Pista. The latest in Ferrari's 'Special Series' cars, the Pista picks up the mantle of the 458 Speciale, 430 Scuderia and 360 Challenge, but it's easily the highest-performing car of the lot.

With extra power, less weight and lots of clever aerodynamic tweaks, the 488 Pista has 'classic' written all over it. You can read more about its spec in this month's News pages, but the striking 'S-Duct' front end aero treatment attracted particular attention on the stand, as did the carbon wheels – a first for Ferrari.

The 488 Pista's UK price was also revealed at the show: £252,695 on the road. As this is not a limited edition model, there's no cap on production numbers, and there's no doubt it will be a big seller. As well as the main attention-grabbing show car painted in Rosso Corsa, there was a second, silver Pista on the stand sporting Ferrari's carbon wheel option – well, you would, wouldn't you? Even at £18,000...

ALFA ROMEO NRING

Alfa's stand fizzed with the new Stelvio Quadrifoglio Nring and Giulia Quadrifoglio Nring limited editions. Each echoes recordbreaking performances at the Nürburgring (7min 51.7sec and 7min 32sec respectively – the fastest SUV and fastest standard production four-door saloon at the Nordschleife).

'NRING' badging is to the fore, plus a numbered carbonfibre dashboard insert and

exclusive Circuito Grey matt paint. The spec includes carbon-ceramic brakes, Sparco carbon shell racing seats with red stitching, Mopar gearknob with carbon insert, and leather-and-Alcantara steering wheel with carbon inserts. The front badge, mirror caps and sideskirt inserts are all made of carbonfibre, while the Giulia version also includes a new bare carbon roof. Only 108 examples of each will be made (one for each year of Alfa Romeo's existence).





ALFA ROMEO GIULIA VELOCE TI

A new Giulia Veloce Ti special edition debuted at the show. The UK market version is powered by a 280hp turbo engine with eightspeed automatic and rear-wheel drive.

Its spec includes a contrasting black roof, leather dashboard with carbon inserts and leather-and-Alcantara seats. Carbon details include backlit kick plates, front cloverleaf 'V', gearknob insert, mirror caps, sideskirt inserts and QV-inspired rear spoiler. Also standard are 19-inch burnished alloy five-spoke wheels with red brake callipers.



ALFA ROMEO 4C EDITIONS

The 4C appeared in two new versions: Competizione Coupe and Italia Spider. The Competizione is racing-themed, with matt Vesuvio Grey paint, exclusive livery, plus carbon details on the roof, rear spoiler, mirror caps, side air vents and headlight moulding. Also standard are dark-finish five-spoke wheels with red brake callipers, Akrapovi titanium central tailpipe with dual mode and carbon trim. Inside are leather-and-microfibre seats with red stitching, racing steering wheel and numbered badge.

The 4C Spider Italia has exclusive Misano Blue paint, Akrapovi titanium tailpipes, asymmetric five-spoke wheels, yellow callipers, plus yellow stitching for the seats, dashboard, steering wheel and door panels. Italian flags feature prominently on the



outside, while an aluminium 'Italia' dashboard plaque. Just 108 examples of each edition are to be made.

LAMBORGHINI HURACÁN PERFORMANTE SPYDER

The open-top Spyder version of the Huracán Performante debuted at Geneva, looking very natty in blue with a yellow-themed interior. Forged carbonfibre contributes to a 35kg weight reduction over the Huracán Spyder – (dry weight is 1507kg). Visible carbon includes the spoilers, engine cover and rear bumper and diffuser. The Spyder's soft-top does not compromise the ALA aero system and the roof opens in 17 seconds at speeds up to 30mph.



Like the Performante coupe, it has permanent four-wheel drive and a 5.2-litre V10 engine with 640hp. It will do 0-62mph in 3.1 seconds and top out at 202mph. And like the Performante coupé, there's tweaked suspension, recalibrated ESC, more responsive steering and revised 'Anima' driving modes. Deliveries begin in summer 2018 priced at £195,078 excluding taxes.



Star of the Fiat stand was the new 124 Spider S-Design Based on the premium

Spider S-Design. Based on the premium Lusso trim level, it adds a gunmetal rollover bar, window frames and mirror covers, plus new 17-inch alloys, Italian flag badging and side stripes.

Geneva also highlighted the new Fiat 500



Mirror family of special editions with Uconnect touchscreens that use Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. They also introduce Mopar Connect for the first time – help in case of accident, breakdown or theft.

ABARTH 124 GT

A new special edition, the 124 GT, debuted on the Abarth stand. Painted in exclusive Alpi Orientali Grey finish, it includes a lightweight carbon hardtop in addition to the manual softtop – the 124 GT is claimed to be the only roadster with a hardtop made of carbonfibre. The GT spec also includes 17-inch OZ Ultra-Light alloys (3kg lighter than standard), plus gunmetal mirror caps and front spoiler. Options include a matt black bonnet, carbonfibre rear spoiler and carbon or red mirror caps.

The carbon hardtop weighs just 16kg and "contributes to overall torsional rigidity," says Abarth. It's lined on the inside and has a large rear window and a defroster, and can be removed easily.

MASERATI NERISSIMO

Not much new on Maserati's stand this year: only Nerissimo Edition versions of the Ghibli, Quattroporte and Levante. Nerissimo means ultra-black, so you get deep black paint plus black chrome trim on the upper grille frame, side air vents, boot and badges. Also black are the grille bars, door handles, exhaust tips and window trims.

The Ghibli and Quattroporte have darkfinished LED headlights and glossy black wheels, while the Levante also has black fog light rings. Inside you can choose between 'Dark Mirror', 'Black Piano' or carbonfibre trim.



ITALDESIGN

Italdesign celebrated its golden 50th anniversary with a convertible version of the Zerouno limited-production supercar, dubbed Duerta (pic above). The targa version of last year's Zerouno – the first car sold under Italdesign branding – uses a removable carbonfibre roof panel.

Like the Zerouno coupe, Duerta production will be limited to just five examples, each costing around £1.75 million, and two orders have already been received. The basis is the Audi R8 V10 Plus with its 610hp 5.2-litre V10 engine, giving it a 0-62mph time of 3.2 seconds and a top speed of 205mph. The Zerouno's body is made almost entirely of carbonfibre.



NEW STRATOS

Shown alongside an original Lancia Stratos on the Manifattura Automobili Torino (MAT) stand was a reborn version of the legend: the New Stratos.

The car has been developed by Michael Stoschek with a design echoing the lines of the 1970s Stratos. It even retains characteristics like the integrated helmet pouch in the doors.

The New Stratos is based on a Ferrari 430 Scuderia, whose 4.3-litre V8 engine delivers over 550hp. On offer are a GT racer, a Safari version and a road model, about which MAT promises "an experience that no other supercar can assure on tight and twisty roads."

Only 25 cars will be produced. Prices start at €550,000 (around £487,000), excluding the donor Ferrari F430 – more than an original Stratos would cost you. The first cars are delivered in April 2018.

PAGANI

No newcomers on the Pagani stand but the Huayra Roadster and, in particular, the Zonda HP Barchetta looked outlandishly exotic, the





latter boasting rear wheel spats and a plethora of carbon extrusions. Pagani is selling about 40 cars per year – its maximum.

GFG SIBYLLA

Giugiaro (GFG Style these days) presented a new concept to celebrate Giorgetto Giugiaro's 80th birthday. Its name, Sibylla, comes from a mythological being who could predict the future, but it's also the name of Giorgetto's mum.



The four-door luxury saloon has four-wheel drive and electric power. The design "references the very low and provocative hedonistic cars Giorgetto designed in the Sixties and Seventies," says GFG, which had Giugiaro's Testudo on hand to illustrate the point, but it kind of overshadowed the new car. It's huge at over five metres long, and to get in, what's claimed to be "the world's first sliding windscreen front section" moves the gigantic windscreen dome forwards.

MICROLINO

The production version of the cutesy Microlino electric bubble car debuted at Geneva – it'll go into production this summer, priced from just over £10,000. Two versions will be offered: one with a 75-mile range and one with 134 miles. Over 5000 orders have already been taken, says the company, which builds the cars in Italy. We love that front-opening door!



PININFARINA

Pininfarina may be Indian-owned these days but it's making a comeback as a small-scale manufacturer with the production version of the H2 Speed – the first ever production track car powered by hydrogen. It has 653hp of power with zero emissions, releasing only water vapour into the atmosphere. 12 units are scheduled to be produced, with Pininfarina-organised track days for owners.



The HK GT "eco-sustainable Gran Turismo" also made its world debut. Its rangeextending hybrid powertrain pairs electric motors with a 'microturbine' that can run on petrol or hydrogen, and develops 804hp. It's a concept only, sadly.

Perhaps Pininfarina's most remarkable car was not on its own stand but *Quattroruote* magazine's. The Ferrari Sigma F1 concept (below), designed by Palo Martin in 1969, looked jaw-droppingly stunning.



ZAGATO ISORIVOLTA VISION GT It's been seen before but the Zagato Vision GT is so good that it attracted big crowds at Geneva. Created as a virtual car for the Gran Turismo Sport PlayStation game, it's now a reality with a Corvette Callaway twin-turbo

GENEVA 2018

6.2-litre V8 engine, whose 997hp enables it to reach a top speed of 227mph and do o-62mph in 2.7 seconds. Zagato plans to manufacture five examples.



CORBELLATI MISSILE

The Missile is all about the numbers: 500km/h (310mph) top speed, 1800hp power and 2350Nm torque. All claimed, of course. Although based in Spain, the language being spoken on the stand was Italian, because the Corbellati family hails from Italy (it's better known for fine art and jewellery). The Missile is powered by a mid-mounted 9.0-litre twin-turbo quad-cam V8. The styling reminded us a little of a Ferrari P4 but warped through a fisheye lens. The chassis is carbonfibre, as is the body – although the fit and finish of the show car was ghastly, not helped by a paint finish that looked and felt like high-friction flooring.



TOURING

As well as the Alfa Romeo Disco Volante, Touring Superleggera had a new offering this year: the Sciadipersia (Shah of Persia). You can probably just about recognise the Maserati GranTurismo that Touring uses as a basis, giving it fresh bodywork. The mechanicals are untouched but you get new seats, a retrimmed dashboard and brushed aluminium highlights. Just 10 Sciadipersias will be built.

IED

The Turin-based vehicle design school, IED, showed its Kite concept car (top right) based on Hyundai mechanicals. It's a completely open buggy powered (of course) by electricity that can not only drive on land but use 'Slide 2 Dive' technology (whatever that is) to travel through water. Yes, really.

BIZZARRINI

Iconic 1960s concept cars stole the 2018 Geneva show. Of these, three classic Bizzarrinis (pic right) stood out. The P538 racer was launched 50 years ago at the 1968 Geneva show, its chassis forming the basis of the sublime and very green Italdesign Bizzarrini Manta. Alongside them, the 2006 Bizzarrini Ghepardo looked a little gawky.

BERTONE

For me, the star of the show was not the new cars but Bertone's twin retro concepts, the Marzal and Sibilo. Gandini's incredible Lamborghini Marzal (the car that sired the Espada) still has the capacity to take your breath away with its glass gullwing doors and extraordinarily sci-fi silver leather interior. The Sibilo, meanwhile (based on a Lancia Stratos chassis), has an utterly unique glasshouse that blends into the bodywork, and we love its ultra-1970s paint scheme of brown/orange.











Stalia eMAILBOX

WRITE TO THE EDITOR AT: AUTO ITALIA, GINGER BEER PROMOTIONS LTD, MORNINGSIDE HOUSE, 1 HIGH AVENUE, LETCHWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG63RL OR EMAIL CHRISREES@AUTO-ITALIA.NET



QP/BMW TWINS?

Just wondered if anyone else had spotted the similarity between the Maserati Quattroporte II (in *Auto Italia* March 2018) and the BMW 5 Series E28? Both are elegant, understated designs (I had a 525e for a while, which was longlegged and effortless) – two beauties from another time.

The mag maintains its high-quality content - I can't wait for it to arrive each month. Oh, and my Fiat Coupe is just waiting for a little more TLC to be perfect in my eyes, so we're on the same page there too! **Nigel Cox**

The BMW E28 was a Claus Luthe restyle of Paul Bracq's E12 (it kept the same centre body intact). Luthe has no Italian connection as far we know but he's a hero of ours, having designed the superb NSU Ro8o. His 1974 design for the VW Polo, however, was clearly inspired by Giugiaro's work on the Golf and Passat. – Ed

ROWAN ATKINSON'S THEMA 8.32

Auto Italia readers may be interested in this story about the Rowan Atkinson Lancia Thema Ferrari 8.32 (mentioned in the March 2018 issue), sold by Silverstone Auctions.

I previously owned this particular car. I purchased it from a large collection of cars in the south of England when it had only covered 18,000 miles. It was in immaculate condition for the age and drove very nicely.

On advertising the car for sale, I was contacted by a retired Lancia dealer



who wished to view the car for a third party, who would possibly be interested in it. After a test drive, we had a short negotiation over price as he talked with the eventual purchaser over the phone. On asking who the interested party was, I was told it was an actor who wished to remain anonymous and wanted the car delivered to the South of France.

I had no idea of the identity of the eventual purchaser until I saw the car in *Auto Italia* magazine some seven years later! I now know it went to a good home. **Nino Polledri**

ABARTH 595 IN OZ

Just picked up a copy of Auto Italia Issue 263 (it takes a while to reach Australia) and enjoyed reading Simon Park's article on his new Abarth 595 Competizione.

I couldn't agree more with just about everything he says, especially the part about the Sabelt race seats. I too own a 2015 model, equipped with the same seats, and had the same thoughts, nearly diverting to an esseesse because the seats were a lot more comfy. Surprising myself, I have adapted over the last two years to the seats, only occasionally finding them like sitting on a solid piece of board, usually at the outset of a trip before the spine relaxes and takes the shape of a straight line. I thought it was only me reputable reports I've read always seemed to describe them as "superbly comfortable"





which to me was unfathomable!

The other aspect is the lack of adjustability of the rear end. I do agree with the testers, and also agree with Simon that it isn't the whole story - the accuracy of the steering being the most pleasurable aspect of the handling for me, along with the superb Michelin Pilot Sport 3s.

Unfortunately, PS3s in the Abarth size have been discontinued in Oz, so I opted for Bridgestone Adrenaline RE003s. Well, what a transformation! A much more flexible tyre, and for the first time in its life, the car has body roll, corner lurch, less feel through the steering, but... rear end adjustability. Thankfully the tyres became a bit less like driving on jelly and a bit more precise after a few hundred

miles, but I was disappointed.

A few months later, I'm now running the tyres at 37/37psi front/rear (factory recommendation is 33/30, which was perfect for the PS3s). Only now am I beginning to enjoy the car again, and its best feature is rear end movability, where you can lift off mid bend and the rear will move out, or just chuck it in hard and the car will steer fairly neutrally. The overall level of grip is a little better than the PS3s with less understeer. I am still missing the steering precision and feel of the PS3s and will look to get PS₄s as soon as they become available.

Thanks for a great publication and keep it coming! Ashley Roberts, Sydney, Australia

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BOOKSHELF REVIEWS OF THE LATEST TITLES



Man. Before the war, it was raced by 'wild man' Luis Fontes and Alfa enthusiast Anthony Powys-Lybbe. Post-war, notable owners included Peter Hampton, Patrick Lindsay and Hubert

Fabri, all significant collectors.

Alfa Romeo Monza: The Autobiography of a Celebrated 8C-2300 By Mick Walsh Porter Press ISBN: 978-1-907085-44-4 £60.00

This is the latest in Porter Press's 'Great Cars' series, telling the stories of individual cars. This time the microscope is turned on an Alfa Romeo 8C-2300 Monza, chassis number 2211130.

You might not think that you could get 320 pages out of a single car but 2211130 has such a rich competition record that you never feel it's being drawn out. Far from it: as the publisher comments, some of its owners and drivers over the years boast life stories that seem like they're taken from a movie script.

Built in 1933, it was raced by Brian Lewis, winning at Brooklands and the Mannin Moar race on the Isle of Man. It was then bought in 1934 by speed record legend, John Cobb, who again raced it on the Isle of

Author Mick Walsh's personal experience of 2211130 stems from the age of 10, when it blasted past his father's car en route to Silverstone in 1967. He's ideally qualified to write about this car, having driven many 8Cs and been responsible for concours events at which this car has been a winner. The book is very well crafted, both as a story and how it looks, with almost 300 period photographs (many previously unpublished) and a lot of contemporary images taken at Brooklands. The quality is unimpeachable; this is a gorgeous item.

Extreme Panteras By David and Linda Adler Adler Publishing ISBN: 978-1-68419-684-5 \$89.95

The subtitle of this new book on De Tomaso Panteras – "A Photo Archive" – gives you a strong clue as to its nature. It's a primarily a photographic work, lavishly illustrated with more than 600 colour images in its 304 pages.

It's also unusual in that it's not a history of the Pantera. Instead, it covers the peculiarly American scene of modified Panteras. From unique examples to racers and prototypes, and cars with very minor alterations up to what seem to European eyes as utterly over-the-top creations, you may find it either amazing or shocking – possibly both. There's Fiat 8V 1952-1954 By Alessandro Sannia Società Editrice Il Cammello ISBN 978-88-96796-48-1 €19.99

Written by occasional Auto Italia contributor, Alessandro Sannia, this is a slender volume (56 pages with 70 pictures in colour and black-andwhite) on perhaps Fiat's greatest ever car, the 8V. Sannia is honest about

the car's virtues – its

EXTREME PANTERAS



certainly no lack of highly polished metal...

The foreword by the late Tom Tjaarda reveals his thoughts about modified Panteras. Tellingly, he says: "It was not a perfect car by any means" and was clearly open to the concept of improving it.

The authors are evidently Panteraphiles, having set up "the largest dealer of De Tomaso automobiles in the world" and now publishing books on De Tomaso, of which this is the third.

There's deliberately very little text in this book, so sometimes you crave more detail on what exactly each car's mods are. It's available at www.detomasobooks.com beguiling style and mechanical sophistication – yet equally so about its foibles ("it was not really successfully either in racing or selling"). It tells the story of the 8V from its origins to the end of production, and includes illustrations and detailed technical data. Also included are one-offs made by coachbuilders on the 8V chassis. It's a great summary but one problem for English readers is that the text is in Italian only.

Charter of Turin Handbook Free download at fiva.org

Nope, we'd never heard of the 'Charter of Turin' before, either, but this book sets out a protocol on the preservation and use of historic vehicles that's recognised by organisations like UNESCO and the FIA.

Produced by FIVA (Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens), it looks at historic vehicles as cultural artefacts, arguing that they should "no longer be seen just as a hobby, a toy for grownup boys, but rather a part of the cultural heritage of our civilisation". There's practical advice on restoration and maintenance, and what constitutes an 'authentic' restoration. Contributors include the curator of the Mulhouse museum and Alfredo Vignale, the nephew of the illustrious Italian designer.



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DIARY DATES 2018

April 7

Alton Italian Car Day Departure Lounge Café, Hampshire GU34 4BH April 22 AROC Spring Alfa Day

Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambs www.aroc-uk.com/events-diary **April 27-29**

Ferrari Racing Days Silverstone circuit www.silverstone.co.uk

May 5 *Auto Italia* Italian Car Day Brooklands, Surrey

www.auto-italia.net

Classics at the Villa Villa Scalabrini Shenley, WD7 9BB www.classicsatthevilla.com

May 11-13 Lancia Motor Club Great Northern Weekend Drymem www.lanciamotorlcub.co.uk

II May 16-19 Mille Miglia Brescia-Padova-Rome-Parma-Brescia www.1000miglia.eu

May 19-20 Beaulieu Spring Autojumble National Motor Museum, Hampshire www.beaulieu.co.uk

May 20 AROC South West Alfa Day

Haynes Motor Museum, Somerset www.aroc-uk.com/events-diary

II May 25-27 Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este Lake Como, Italy concorsodeleganzavilladeste.com May 26-27 La Vie en Bleu/La Vita Rossa Prescott, Glos www.prescott-hillclimb.com

June 2 Alton Italian Car Day Departure Lounge

Café, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4BH **June 3**

AROC Italian Extravaganza Newby Hall, Yorkshire www.aroc-uk.com/events-diary June 8-11 Lancia Motor Club Sliding Pillar Rally Chepstow www.lanciamotorlcub.co.uk II June 29-30 & July 1 23rd Vernasca Silver Flag Classic car hillclimb, Castel'Arquato

www.vernascasilverflag.it July 1 AROC National Alfa Day Weston Park, Shropshire www.aroc-uk.com/events-diary

July 12-15

Goodwood Festival of Speed Chichester, Sussex www.goodwood.com

July 20-22 Silverstone Classic 2018

www.silverstoneclassic.com

Supercar Saturday Brooklands www.auto-italia.net

Supercar Sunday 2018 has been recast as 'Supercar Saturday'. The event, which is held at Brooklands Museum in Surrey and is run by *Auto Italia* magazine, has traditionally been held on a Sunday but the 2018 event will take place on Saturday 28 July, not Sunday 29 July. For more information, go to auto-italia.net/events



August 3-5 Lancia Motor Club National & AGM Kenilworth Warkwickshire www.lanciamotorlcub.co.uk August 4-5 Beaulieu Supercar Weekend National Motor Museum, Hampshire www.beaulieu.co.uk August 5 Italian Car Day by Abarth East Midlands Heage Windmill, Derbyshire August 19 Festival Italia Brands Hatch Circuit, Kent www.festivalitalia.com August 30 - September 1 Salon Privé Blenheim Palace, Oxon salonpriveconcours.com September 1-2 Beaulieu International Autojumble National Motor Museum, Hampshire www.beaulieu.co.uk September 7-9 Goodwood Revival Chichester, Sussex www.goodwood.com September 14-16 **Best Of Italy Race** Castell'Arguato to Morfasso www.bestofitalyrace.com September 23 AROC Southern Alfa Day Winkworth Arboretum, Surrey www.aroc-uk.com/events-diary October 14 Autumn Motorsport Festival Brooklands, www.auto-italia.net October 25-28 Auto e Moto d'Epoca 2018 Padova, Italy autoemotodepoca.com November 9-11 NEC Classic Motor Show Birmingham www.necclassicmotorshow.com

Twelfth Knight

Is the V12 version of Ferrari's grand tourer obsolete next to the newer, cheaper V8 Lusso T? We make a case for the big V12 4x4 model

Story: Chris Rees Images: Michael Ward



VI2 FNE ·





t's a familiar tale. A car manufacturer launches a model in signature, range-topping four-wheel drive spec. Some time later comes a cheaper, feistier two-wheel drive version that many argue is the 'purer' model – the one to have.

I've heard many people say this about the Ferrari GTC4Lusso. This was, of course, launched in 2016 in just one guise: with four-wheel drive 6gohp of raw V12 power. As of last year, you've also been able to buy the GTC4Lusso in 'T' form with a twin-turbo V8 engine and rear-wheel drive. The question is, why would you want a non-T Lusso now? After all, the big V12 is heavier, thirstier and more expensive to buy.

Two reasons come to mind immediately: having a naturally aspirated V12 powerplant and four-wheel drive. Lest we forget, Ferrari's V12 is a thing of absolute glory. And you only get four-wheel drive in the V12 model (the Lusso T is rear-drive only).

In our first spin in the Lusso T in our June 2017 issue, we described it as a "tax dodge" model, really designed for markets which penalise cars with high CO2 emissions. But in the UK, we don't get punished in tax terms in any significant way for the extra CO2. While such UK tax rules remain in place, there's very much a case for V12 power. Yes, I know Ferrari's turbo V8 has won Engine of the Year Award – twice in a row – but I must say I remain convinced by naturally aspirated power.

And make no mistake, Ferrari's non-turbo V12 is one of the all-time great engines. With 6.3 litres and not a whiff of forced induction in sight, you can revel in fully 69ohp (8ohp more than the V8T) delivered at a scintillating 8000rpm. More than that, the throttle response is genuinely instantaneous and the natural aspiration means it just gets better and better as the revs rise.

There's certainly no lack of performance, as we discovered when the GTC4Lusso acted as our pace car at the recent Autumn Motorsport Day at Brooklands. For the record, it will sprint to 62mph in 3.4 seconds (0.1sec faster than the Lusso T), while its top speed of 208mph is 9mph higher than the sub-200mph 'T'. Yes, it's undeniable that the V8T engine delivers more torque than the V12 but honestly, you never feel there's any lack of 00mph – particularly as 80 per cent of the of 697Nm (514lb ft) peak twisting force is available from as low as 1750rpm. The GTC4Lusso with its 12 cylinders and 4x4 gubbins may weigh almost two tonnes, but you'd never think so from its pulverisingly punchy performance.

And I'm sorry, but no V8 can ever deliver the soulful bellow at full chat that Ferrari's V12 does: it's like a Luciano Pavarotti opera versus an auto-tuned charity single. Wonderfully immediate induction resonance, a visceral roar as you approach the 8250rpm redline and a glorious howl from the exhausts – simply blissful. The seven-speed dual-clutch transmission is also utterly effortless in auto mode, while switching to manual mode gives it a very different character; you almost feel like you're in an 812 Superfast.

Let's go back to that word, agility, because the 4x4 chassis is wonderful. Rear-wheel steering adds dartiness at lower speeds – at first, it feels more feisty than you might expect for a grand tourer, but you soon get used to it. At higher speeds, there are so many aids to help you that you'd have to be an idiot to get into



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FERRARI GTC4LUSSO

ENGINE:	6262cc V12 petrol
POWER:	690hp @ 8000rpm
TORQUE:	697Nm (514lb ft) @ 5750rpm
TRANSMISSION:	Seven-speed dual-clutch auto, four- wheel drive
SUSPENSION:	Magnetorheological (SCM-E)
BRAKES:	Ceramic discs all round
TYRES:	245/35 ZR20 (fr), 295/35 ZR20 (rear)
DIMENSIONS:	4922/1980/1383mm
WEIGHT:	1920kg
TOP SPEED:	208mph
0-62MPH:	3.4sec
FUEL (COMBINED):	18.8mpg
CO2:	350g/km
PRICE:	£230,430

trouble: F1-Trac traction control, adaptive dampers, E-Diff differential and Slide Slip Control (SSC) which lets you have a little bit of fun in safety; even with all systems turned off, there's still massive traction.

Thank the 4x4 system for that. You really notice the 4x4 system working both off the line and when exiting corners. The Torque Vectoring system combines with a pair of clutches taking drive off the front of the engine to deliver power to the front wheels – no heavy propshaft diverting drive back to the car's nose here. As a result, 53 per cent of the weight sits over the rear axle, which helps the inherent sense of balance.

You have a choice of multiple driving modes on the steering wheel *manettino*: Snow & Ice, Wet, Comfort and Sport. Each twist of the knob alters the car's character subtly. The fact that there's a 'Bumpy Road' setting to soften the dampers (even in Sport mode) means that the GTC4 is never fazed by potholes – although it doesn't quite challenge the Portofino as the best-riding car in Ferrari's range.

In so many other ways, the Lusso ('luxury') name is entirely apt. I loved spending time in this car's glorious cabin. It's very far from being cramped and uncomfortable, with easily the most spacious and cosseting interior of any Ferrari. It's so easy to achieve a great driving position, the seats are supportive and comfortable, and there are lots of comfort-orientated goodies to keep you relaxed on long journeys. The dashboard continues the luxury theme with its 10.25-inch central touchscreen and a surprise-and-delight second letterbox display for the passenger, with a choice of views.

Let's not forget practicality, either. I recently spent time with a GTC4Lusso owner who's using his car as an everyday driver. With a full four seats – well, slightly less 'full' rear ones than front ones – and a shooting brake tailgate that opens on to a huge 450 litres' worth of luggage space, it's certainly got the space. And what a nice thing to be tooling around in day in, day out.

VERDICT

The GTC4Lusso is a truly compete all-rounder – a car for all seasons, a car for everyday driving, yet also one of the quickest cars on the road. It combines country-crushing long-distance ability, cosseting comfort and a sharp chassis that can mix it with some of the best supercars.

That V12 engine might seem like an anachronism to some, now that Ferrari's Lusso T turbo V8 is available for £31k less than the V12's £230,430 asking price. But if you want a Ferrari with 4x4 and can't bear to miss out on one of the world's most alluring soundtracks, original is undoubtedly best. That said, I've got my name down to drive the V8-engined Lusso T in the summer. Will I change my mind? I'd like to think it remains open.



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In bocca al lupo

FLOW MOTION

This stunning Alfa Romeo 8C famously ran at Le Mans in 1938, ushering in a new era of aerodynamics in race cars thanks to its flowing Touring shape. We reflect on one of Alfa Romeo's absolute crown jewels

Story & images: Ruoteclassiche/Alessandro Barteletti

t our photo shoot at the old Alfa Romeo test track in Arese, it's hard not to feel a sense of wonder. We're in the presence of one of the most iconic cars in the history of Alfa Romeo. Confronted by this commandingly imposing 8C you feel attraction, respect, even awe. Its shape takes your breath away; its story would make an improbably twisted plot for a movie; and its run at Le Mans, where it led the field by fully 189km before crumbling away due to a mechanical fault, is the stuff of legend.

This Alfa Romeo 8C 2900 B Le Mans was born in 1938, encapsulating Carlo Felice Bianchi Anderloni's then-fresh ideas in the field of aerodynamics, in which Touring would become pre-eminent.

After almost half a century of wanderings, this

unique Alfa 8C 2900 B was rightfully relocated in the 1980s back to its hometown of Milan. After a series of delicate negotiations, it became part of the Alfa Romeo's precious collection in the museum at Arese, where it has remained ever since.

But it's no pampered exhibit. This 8C has led an active life in the limelight at events and shows in Italy and across Europe. In 2006, it underwent a restoration, with particular care paid to its many special details, bringing the car back to its original form, including such items as the chrome moulding that runs vertically between the two halves to make up the characteristic front grille. At the same time, the discovery of some remaining paint from 1938 meant that the original bodywork colour could be recreated: a unique dark red that was popular among Italian race cars at the time.

AERODYNAMICS ABOVE ALL

The history of this unique 8C 2900 B, chassis number 412033, dubbed 'Le Mans' because of its famous race debut, began in the spring of 1938. As with most 8C 2900s, Alfa Corse entrusted the coachbuilder Touring with the manufacture of the chassis, which was originally intended for an open body to run in the Mille Miglia race.

The order, however, required that it be prepared for the 24 Hours of Le Mans of that year. Enzo Ferrari personally sent the race rules to the Milanese coachbuilder to allow it to create a car that complied with the rulebook. The request was for a 'berlinetta coupe' (in other words, a convertible saloon).

The car was completed in May 1938, just in time for the Le Mans race (18-19 June). Its appearance on the Circuit of La Sarthe took everyone's breath away, not only because of its stunning bodywork, but also because it was not an open car, which was the norm for racing cars in those years. The bodywork was made to Touring's 'Superleggera' spec with ultra-light aluminium panelling over a steel frame. The sizeable coupe had just two seats.

What was really important, though, was that for the first time, Touring speculated that aerodynamics could be every bit as beneficial as weight loss in racing. Compared to the road version, the race version underwent many changes. Three additional slots were opened up on each flank and six other ones on the tail to serve as air inlets/outlets to improve ventilation. The unusual hump over the tail surrounded and protected the 100-litre fuel tank which was located inside the passenger compartment, behind the seats.

The car was powered by a dual-block, eight-cylinder in-line engine with two superchargers, giving it 220hp. Compared to the regular 8C engine, the bore was increased from 68mm to 68.25mm. The transmission, meanwhile, located at the rear axle, was made of Elektron and derived from the 8C 2900 A.

The 8C 2900 B Le Mans (Number 19) was raced by Raymond Sommer and Clemente Biondetti. By nine o'clock on Sunday morning, they were no fewer than eleven laps ahead of their competitors. But the collapse of a tyre, followed by a mechanical failure, forced the car into a spectacular and unexpected withdrawal from the competition. See our separate panel for the full Le Mans 24 Hours story.

A 48-YEAR JOURNEY

In February 1939, Alfa Corse sold this unique car to a Roman aristocrat called Michelangelo Leonardi. This was the first of a long series of transactions and changes of ownership. Among the races undertaken by private drivers, we should highlight the 1946 performance of Inicio Bernabei over the flying kilometre between Rome and Ostia, which took 18 seconds, recording a top speed of 199.225km/h (nearly 124mph). Although this was the best result of the day, the Alfa had been put into a 'free' category so it was excluded from the official results. The car's racing career came to an end the same year, when supercharging was prohibited in the Sports class.

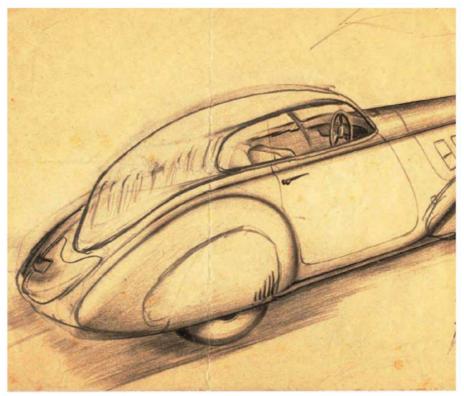
This car went on to become part of Franco Venturi's renowned collection. After Venturi's death, on the cusp of the 1960s, the 8C ended up in the hands of



Corrado Lupellini and Giovannino Lurani, respectively a journalist and the editor of *Auto Italiana* magazine. It was then sold on to England. The new owner attempted to drive it back to Italy, but the car, as it had been sitting for a long time, developed a serious cylinder head failure due to poor cooling.

After three subsequent changes of ownership, all in foreign countries, the car was finally rescued and properly taken care of by Mike Sparke. He restored it and brought it back to Italy in 1986 for the Mille Miglia and also the Concours d'Elegance at Villa d'Este. A few months later, negotiations with the Alfa museum at Arese came to a happy end. Alfa Romeo paid a high price for the car, though: it basically exchanged an engine and a lot of parts for an Alfetta 158, the first single-seater to win a Formula 1 championship. But we can be thankful: the glorious 8C Le Mans is in the best possible hands.

BELOW: sketch by Touring's Carlo Felice Bianchi Anderloni shows his first attempt at an aerodynamic tail



FA ROMEO 8C 2900 B LE MANS

HOW THE 8C ALMOST WON LE MANS

At the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1938, Alfa Romeo entered just one car: the very 8C 2900 B featured on these pages. Race number 19 was taken by the Frenchman Raymond Sommer and the Italian Clemente Biondetti, who were competing against a powerful French contingent, consisting of seven Delahayes and six Talbot Lagos driven by the likes of Dreyfus, Chiron, Etancelin and Rosier.

At the start, after the traditional racers' run towards the cars lined up in 'comb' formation, the Delahayes driven by Dreyfus and Comotti snapped up first place. By lap 10, Etancelin's Talbot was leading the race. Sommer, meanwhile, handed the steering wheel of the Alfa Romeo to Biondetti who, by the fifth hour, had overtaken every other competitor. It just got better: by the sixteenth hour he was 11 laps ahead, a distance equivalent to 148 kilometres.



However, when it was Sommer's turn to drive, the right front tyre unexpectedly collapsed, causing the car to skid. Luckily, the experienced French driver did not lose control and managed to reach his pit to have the problem fixed. Biondetti, back at the wheel, increased the advantage to as many as 14 laps, 189km or one and a half hours in front of the next racer.

Victory seemed assured but it was brutally interrupted by an abrupt mechanical failure. Biondetti then did the unimaginable: he stepped out of the car and started pushing it back to the pits. His epic four-kilometre push lasted over an hour and became the stuff of legend.

At the time, the Italian press reported lubrication problems. Later investigation, however, uncovered the fact that, when the car started skidding, Sommer was brave enough not to brake. But in his attempt to slow the car down, he changed gear too abruptly, causing the engine to over-rev. The valves and engine were badly damaged and the car was forced to retire; Chaboud-Trémoulet in a Delahaye eventually won the race.



WIND TUNNEL PROOF

On 25 June 1987, the 8C 2900 B Le Mans underwent a series of tests in Pininfarina's wind tunnel in Grugliasco. The aim was to test whether Touring's aerodynamic theories were borne out in reality.

With the car in full road-going form, the coefficient of drag (Cd) was rated at 0.427. In 'Maquette' mode, with sealed front air intakes, the Cd dropped to 0.374. It should be pointed out that the Cd of cars in the 1930s was usually well above 0.50.

The wind tunnel tests showed an extremely wide wake created to the sides and underneath the car. The 'cross flow' map shows two whirlwinds generated by the main body and the passenger compartment; this created lift (Cz) of 0.447. The presence of those two whirlwinds – according to Pininfarina's report – indicated that the Kamm-type shape at the rear of the car was not as efficient as it could be. The car could have had better aerodynamics and therefore higher performance if the lower part of the body had been manufactured better so that the whirlwinds could have been avoided. The Cd could also have been improved if



the cooling system had been designed differently to minimise drag. Nevertheless, when you think that Touring's design was created on pure intuition, and that the science of airflow was still very rudimentary at the time, the results are impressive. Wind tunnel tests in 1987 showed the car was impressive by 1930s standards, but there was room for improvement



ALFA ROMEO 8C 2900 B LE MANS







TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS ALFA ROMEO 8C 2900 LE MANS

ENGINE: BORE X STROKE: COMPRESSION RATIO: POWER: INDUCTION: TRANSMISSION: SUSPENSION:

BRAKES: TYRES: DIMENSIONS: WEIGHT: MAX SPEED: 2926cc 8-cyl in-line DOHC 68.25mm x 100 mm 6.25:1 220hp at 5500rpm Two Weber 42 carbs, two superchargers 4-speed manual, rear-wheel drive Transverse arms, coil springs (front), trailing arms, single transverse leaf spring (rear), hydraulic dampers Drums 5.50 x 19 4660mm (LENGTH) 1250kg 137mph





Bruising Encounter

Two big Italian saloons of the 1970s slug it out face to face. They certainly go about their business in very different ways

> Words: Martin Buckley Images: Michael Ward

he Italians have always had an uncomfortable relationship with big saloon cars, be it as makers or buyers of them. In Italy, a large four-door car equals both thirst, punitive taxes, high insurance costs and a display of personal wealth that might bring the unwelcome attentions of the tax man in a notoriously tax-averse nation.

Historically Italians have struggled to understand the subtleties of buyers' motivation in a market that can bring great rewards for those who get it right. That mind-set has tended to make their attempts at building luxury vehicles all the more compelling to watch from a safe distance.

The Lancia Gamma and Alfa 6 both fatally misjudged the mood of the big car market in Europe where the Germans were already setting the agenda 40 years ago. Both showed poor timing - the Lancia in that it was released to the public too early, the Alfa because it was released too late – and neither was marketed with the sort of enthusiasm that their flagship status deserved.

They were the unwanted children of distracted parents, the Gamma too far down the developmental line to be cancelled by Fiat, the Alfa's styling and engineering frozen in the pre-oil crisis early 1970s when it was put on hold for six years in favour of the more commercially important Alfetta, with which it shared its doors and floorpan and suspension layout (torsion bars front, De Dion axle rear), if not the transaxle gearbox/diff concept.

The trouble was the world had moved on by 1979. There were all kinds of really capable new saloon cars from BMW, Opel and Mercedes for buyers to choose from with reputations that inspired much more confidence in a luxury car market where Alfa had not had a contender for 12 years.







The public showed its indifference by only buying 12,000 Alfa 6s, a figure that includes both 2.0 and 2.5litre V6 variants and the five-cylinder diesel. Bizarrely the tax-beating 2.0-litre petrol was thirstier than the 2.5 because it had to work harder to shift the weight.

The Gamma, also available as a tax-dodging 2.0-litre, faired slightly better, selling 15,000 examples between 1976 and 1984. But its commercial reputation was already in tatters at the beginning of the 1980s due to a variety of widely reported engine problems, chief among them the potential for the cambelt to strip its teeth if the power steering was held on full lock.

The Gamma, a car pitched somewhere between the appeal of the flat-four Flavia and the V6 Flaminia, was arguably the last 'real' Lancia, its front-wheel drive chassis architecture inspired by the Beta but with a bespoke all-alloy engine that was never used in anything else. A big horizontally opposed four-cylinder engine, no matter what its supposed benefits, made the car a hard sell at the best of times; Lancia pointed out that, because it was both light and low-slung that it could mount the boxer engine well forward of the front wheels, thus freeing up cabin space without having a negative effect on aerodynamics or handling. Others suggested that a flat-four neither sounded nor felt right in an executive car, nor delivered the economy benefits its makers claimed.

Still, at least the Gamma's svelte Pininfarina body looked elegant and modern. Alfa tried to make a case for the boxy, ultra-conservative styling of the 6 by saying it didn't attract 'unwanted attention' in an Italy where kidnapping was still a great sport (the kidnapping and murder of former premier Aldo Moro was still fresh in the memory) but the excuse didn't really wash.

Even Alfa's bosses knew the 6 was barely

Ultra-boxy shape of the Alfa 6 is about as conservative as you can get. Still, it did usher in the glorious Busso V6 era





ALFA ROMEO 6 VS LANCIA GAMMA



Gamma looks like it should have a fastback hatch but it's a saloon. Pininfarina's original design jostles modernity with gawkiness saleable. Seven managing directors oversaw its development but only one had the nerve to give it the green light for production.

The shame was that the 6 was really a fairly nice car under its boxy bodywork. Its saving grace was a really delightful V6 engine – the first of the great Busso V6 line – a 2.5-litre unit with 156hp (with a bizarre sixthroat Dellorto carburettor set up). It could push the car to 120mph, making it Italy's fastest four-door production car for a while. It handled well, too – useful when you needed to out-manoeuvre all those Red Brigade types who weren't noticing you. For those who really were nervous about bandits, a popular option for the Alfa 6 in Italy was bullet-proof glass and body panels. Most 6s went to government officials and possibly lesser Mafia hoods.

At £11,900 in Britain, the 6 was the price of two 2.0litre Giuliettas and a significant £2000 more than a Gamma. The truth was Alfa GB would sell you a 6 for half the asking price, because they were so desperate to get rid of them. Only 128 Alfa 6s were sold in the UK, whereas Gamma saloon sales peaked at just under 1000 cars in 1979 alone, although dropped swiftly thereafter.

Both cars survive in handfuls today and I suspect Ian Brookes is the only man in Britain who owns an example of each. His dark blue Alfa 6 is one of the later fuel-injected type with the post-1983 facelift that meant twin rectangular (rather than quad circular) headlamps and new bumpers.

Lancia also went to Bosch injection on its Series 2 Gammas (post-1980) but Ian's low mileage car is a carburettor Series 1 with the original-style alloys and front grille/bonnet arrangement.

Lancia offered a four-speed AP automatic on the injected cars but a five-speed manual was mandatory







on the Series 1. There were manual ZF five-speed Alfa 6s in Italy but all UK examples were ZF autos.

In some ways you cannot blame Alfa for making the car look so innocuous: can you honestly say the 6 is

are no accident: had Fiat's merger with Citroen gone ahead in the early 1970s, then the Lancia would have emerged with the CX-type gas-and-oil suspension. Inside, stylish details like the design of the door

On the road, the Alfa 6 feels like a big Alfetta, which is no bad thing ??

any less matronly looking than, say, a 1979 BMW 5 Series? Visually the Gamma has improved with age and you can see links to the BMC/Pininfarina 1800 show car and the Citroen CX in its sweeping two-box profile with a conventional boot lid (albeit double-hinged with a nifty reversing window hidden behind slats) where you expect to find a hatchback. Comparisons with the CX cards and headlining set the Gamma apart from the more conventionally decadent Alfa with its fussy dash and pretentious wood trim. Both have sun shades for rear passengers, quad head restraints and full electric windows and mirrors, but only the Alfa has a poweradjustable driver's seat. The Lancia blue 'L' cloth trim is by the Italian luxury fashion house Zegna but

Front-drive Lancia has fine steering feel; Alfa 6 also has an impressive helm but understeers ultimately



ALFA ROMEO 6 VS LANCIA GAMMA

leather was optional in both cars. Each one is a practical choice with impressive rear legroom, but the Alfa has more luxury equipment, like central locking, to justify its flagship status.

Underway, the Lancia feels superficially livelier but rougher than the silky Alfa with its curious, throbby offbeat sound that can't be mistaken for anything else. It is 20hp down on the Alfa 6 but largely makes up for that with superb low-speed torque. It is slightly lighter with a well plotted set of ratios in a clunky but positive gearbox that gives almost 60mph in second gear and well over 100mph in fourth, should you be brave enough to use 6200rpm.

At those revs, the flat-four is smooth – smoother than a five-cylinder Audi – but nothing like as silky as the Alfa's V6, which is refined at all speeds; although, at tickover, you can just hear its short pushrods chattering as they open the inlet valves. Moving off, the Alfa V6 churns a little against the torque converter but its refinement probably gives a false impression of how quickly it is really gathering pace. The overall gearing is quite low to keep the acceleration interesting.

If the Alfa had one of the great production engines of the decade to recommend it then perhaps the Lancia Gamma's only contribution to the cause of motoring progress was its steering, a powered rack that set new standards of feel and response for big front-drive car at the time. It is still impressive today; free from front-drive kickback, as well as being quick and positive. The Lancia is planted on the road on its skinny (by modern standards) tyres and is wonderfully understeer-free. This allows you to throw it around at will like something much smaller; the 'giant Alfasud' analogy is by no means fanciful.

Then again, the Alfa 6 feels like a big Alfetta, which is no bad thing. It certainly does not suffer for not having adopted the smaller car's transaxle layout. The steering is crisp and communicative but the built-in















(but not excessive) understeer is such that it feels stable at all times. If anything there is a sense that you would be more likely to get the rear end of the front-drive, neutral-handling Gamma to move around than the rear-drive Alfa.

On ride and brakes, it's a draw with honourable mentions in both cases, although perhaps the Gamma's biggest drawback is scuttle shake under certain circumstances, which manifests itself as a somewhat rattly dashboard. That is, apparently, something to do with an inherent weakness in the front of the floorpan.

My instincts sway towards preferring the Gamma, although like Ian, I would happily own either of these cars. In the case of the Gamma I have, multiple times; I'm currently still missing my last Gamma saloon and



will inevitably have another at some point.

I have come close to owning an Alfa 6 on several occasions but never felt comfortable crossing the line. Somehow it always felt like a poor relation to the much grander and more ambitious Fiat 130 saloon; thus, when the time came to put my money where my mouth was the big Fiat won every time.

It still would today (Ian Brookes would no doubt agree with me, as he also owns a beautiful 130 coupe, avowedly his favourite car in a collection that includes a Ferrari 412) but somehow the Gamma has a sufficiently different appeal to keep the fascination alive. Bravely designed and poorly executed, it has the more interesting story to tell, its idiosyncratic engine and chic fastback styling somehow making it a more appealing classic than it ever was a new car.

Big Italian saloons of the 1970s don't come much more charismatic, quirky or rare than this pairing

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

ALFA ROMEO 6

FNGINE POWFR. TOROUE TRANSMISSION: SUSPENSION:

TYRES

WEIGHT:

0-62MPH:

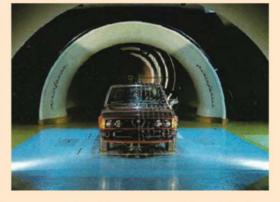
MAX SPEED:

2492cc V6 160hp @ 5800rpm 162lb ft (210Nm) @ 4000rpm Five-speed manual, rear-wheel drive Wishbones, torsion bars, anti-roll bar (f), de Dion axle, trailing arms, Watt linkage, anti-roll bar (r) 195/70 HR14 DIMENSIONS L-W-H: 4760/1680/1390mm 1430kg 121mph 10.3sec

LANCIA GAMMA 2500

2484cc flat-four 140hp @ 5400rpm 154lb ft (208Nm) @ 3000rpm Five-speed manual, front-wheel drive MacPherson struts, anti-roll bar (f); struts, transverse links, anti-roll bar (r)

185/70 HR14 4580/1730/1410mm 1320kg 121mph 9.6sec







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Can you believe it's 40 years since Fiat launched its 'Handbuilt by Robots' Ritmo/Strada? We celebrate by recalling some memorable Abarth 130TC moments from the 1980s

> Story: Peter Nunn Images: Michael Ward





orty years ago, Fiat was clearly in the mood for revolution when the time came to bring its inventive new Ritmo (Strada in the UK) hatchback on to the market. Born in 1978, Fiat's new medium hatchback really was something else, both in the way it looked and how it was presented – an extraordinarily bold statement.

Here was an everyday car for the masses but Fiat had the courage to break the mould. It also sired one of the great Italian cult classics: the hardcore Abarth 130TC, a car whose speed and commitment managed to refresh the parts the Golf GTi and XR3i just couldn't reach.

Yes, every now and then, Fiat can surprise us with something truly radical. Back in the late 1970s, Fiat was thinking well outside the box when its replacement for the much loved and highly successful 128 was on the drawing board. While the 128 had been neat, conventional small saloon and estate, Fiat went down a far more challenging route for the highly industrialised product that would become the Strada. For a start, it was a three/five-door hatchback, designed to compete with the growing force that was the VW Golf. It was also much bigger than the pert 128 and looked very different - even though it shared most of the 128's mechanicals under the skin.

Even now, the Strada – at least in its original form – is

BKJ 158



something of a jaw-dropper thanks to its thought-provoking, outlandish design that's credited to Sergio Sartorelli at Centro Stile Fiat, predating the Chris Bangle era at BMW and Fiat by two decades.

Underneath, the Strada wasn't so groundbreaking. To keep it simple, it adapted much of the 128's hardware including its transversely-mounted overhead cam engines and front-wheel drive layout. But in its design and the way it was manufactured, the Strada was a step into the future. For a start, it was shaped with a clear eye on aerodynamics and fuel saving. It was also very specifically set up to be efficient and cheap to build.

At the front, you just could not miss that huge plastic bumper, designed not so much for style but to offset small parking knocks and be relatively inexpensive to replace if need be. The way that moulding reached up and around the nose, interlocking with the two round headlights, gave the Strada an odd, guppy-like look. Move around to the back and much the same theory applied. The Strada's sharply raked front and rear screens, its sharp crease line along the side and, perhaps most strikingly, those funky round door handles – there was nothing else like on



the road. Inside, the Strada was roomy and comfortable for its class, also practical, but Fiat's wholesale use of cheap-looking plastics was hardly much to write home about.

Ah, but the advertising, now that was something else. A brilliant TV campaign put together by the Collet Dickenson Pearce agency showed rows of Stradas being built by teams of robots in a factory without a dirty blue overall in sight. The ad, to the rousing soundtrack of Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, ran for two minutes, had no voiceover and ended with the simple caption "Handbuilt by Robots".

The print version was even wackier. "Designed with a computer. Silenced by a laser. Built by a robot." Comedians loved it, it's true, and yet 40 years on it's one car ad that most people still remember with affection.

Less well known is that fact that when the ad agency arrived in Italy to film it all, they found the Fiat factory on strike and had to run the gauntlet of burning tyres and pickets with workers protesting volubly about robots taking away their jobs. Not everyone was signing up to the wondrous ways of Fiat's futuristic new family car...

All right, so while the Strada was at heart a cooking family car produced in huge numbers

100

(of which sadly hardly any seem to survive today), a series of quicker enthusiast versions eventually began to





break cover. Over and above the initial 1.0 to 1.5-litre petrol engine range and 1.7-litre diesel, by 1981 Fiat was ready to offer the warmish 1.6-litre Strada 105TC three-door.

The same year, Fiat tested the performance waters with the stronger 2.0litre Abarth 125TC for left-hand drive markets. Then in 1982 Fiat introduced the smoother, second-generation Strada family with toned-down looks and greater refinement. By the summer of 1983, we had the true joker in the pack: the Strada Abarth 130TC.

Here was one muscular three-door hot hatch that truly looked the business. Starting





with the potent 1995cc twin-cam from the 125TC, the newcomer traded the former's single Weber carb for a more exotic pair of twin-choke side-draught Solex or Weber carbs, plus meatier set of cam profiles.

Output jumped to 130hp, up 24 per cent versus the 105TC. That meant with a published 0-60 mph time of 7.7 seconds (versus 8.7 for the Golf GTi and 9.1 for the Ford XR3i), so Fiat had no qualms about claiming the 130TC to be "the quickest hatchback of its kind". Top speed was quoted as "an indecently (not to say illegally fast) 122mph." Try running that kind of ad today... A close-ratio five-speed ZF gearbox and





extensively uprated disc/drum brake package were also part of the 130TC set-up.

Here in the UK, word soon started to build about the 13oTC. Journalists who went on the original press launch in Italy came back with rave reviews. In September 1983, your correspondent had first-hand experience of what the 13oTC could do when Fiat's international press department, headed by Giampiero Mantovani, generously arranged to lend me a car in Italy for two weeks.

We flew to Rome and picked up a black 13oTC from near the airport. Fantastic! Spending time in that beautiful part of Italy, up from Rome on the coast around

C798 CWI

Strada130n

UK market Abarths (badged Strada) had very supportive Recaro seats. Perspex wind deflectors boosted speed

40 auto italia

FIAT RITMO / STRADA

TOP: Ritmo in action on the Adamello Classic Hillclimb. BELOW: No stranger to competition, the Ritmo also competed in many rallies.

Grossetto was compelling enough. Combine that with the speed and exhilaration of a no-compromise

The way it went, the sound, the feedback, the power – that is what I remember ""

G.GIUDICI

road rocket such as the 130TC and life really felt beautiful. OK, so the three-door 130TC was perhaps not the most genteel or refined car in that class, but who cared? The way it went, the sound, the feedback, the level of presentation, the power of that Scorpion badge, that is what I remember, putting it into a whole different league compared to the rather oddball Strada normale.

Then came 'round two' when Fiat launched



the UK version of the 130TC to the press up in Scotland in April 1984. I was deputy editor on What Car? at the time and readily volunteered for this particular mission. Starting in Glasgow, a fantastic 250-mile country road route that took in Glencoe, Loch Fyne and the Rest-and-be-Thankful hillclimb was the stuff of petrolhead heaven. Praise be, the famously fickle Scottish weather played nice on this occasion, too.



This, though, was a different kind of 13oTC, even grittier and no-nonsense thanks in part to Fiat's decision to

equip UK-spec cars with huge Recaro front sports seats. Supportive through the esses, no question, but comfortable and allowing easy access to the rear? Less so. Perspex wind deflectors on the doors were another curio (designed to increase maximum speed by an extra few mph) but all told, the visuals, including subtle body kit, smart alloys and curved rear spoiler were peachy.

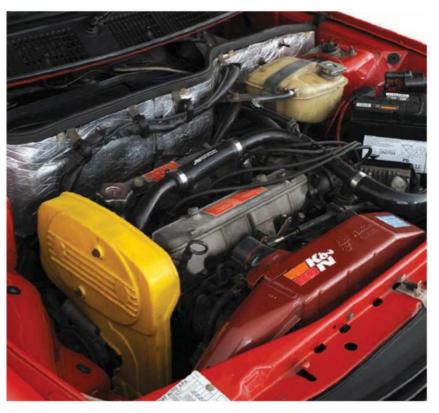
Performance really was the 130TC's forte.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FIAT STRADA ABARTH 130TC

ENGINE:	1995cc 4-cylinder 8v DOHC
BORE X STROKE:	84mm x 90mm
COMPRESSION RATIO:	9.4:1
INDUCTION:	Two Weber 40DCOE 145/146 or Solex C40 ADDHE carbs
POWER:	130hp @ 5900rpm
TORQUE:	130lb ft @ 3600rpm
TRANSMISSION:	Five-speed manual gearbox, front-wheel drive
SUSPENSION:	Front: Independent with MacPherson struts
	and anti-roll bar.Rear: Independent with
	telescopic dampers and transverse leaf spring
BRAKES:	244mm discs (front), 185mm drums (rear)
TYRES:	185/60 HR14 Pirelli P6
DIMENSIONS:	4014mm (L), 1663mm (W), 1374mm (H)
FUEL CONSUMPTION:	29mpg
WEIGHT:	950kg
MAX SPEED:	118mph
0-62MPH:	8.2sec
PRICE NEW:	£7800
VALUE TODAY:	£7500-£15,000





The Fiat's big 2.0-litre twink was endearingly gutsy and strong, offering excellent throttle response and an inspiringly vocal soundtrack all the way up the conservative 6250rpm redline and, ahem, even beyond. Moreover, the Fiat's high-tech Digiplex electronic ignition helped smooth out the torque curve, which stayed above 110lb ft all the way from 2000 to 6000rpm and, at its peak, generated a meaty 130lb ft at 3600rpm.

Such figures, and a 120mph top end, easily outpaced the Fiat's biggest enemy at the time, the 1.8-litre Golf GTi, yet few would deny that the Fiat was also the more vocal, less cossetting, thirstier prospect.

The 130TC qualified as a fast, inspiring driving machine, no doubt, with strong grip,

keen turn-in and minimal body roll among its calling cards. It rocked, and sometimes when the torque steer kicked in, it almost rolled. But there was a definite penalty to be paid in terms of ride comfort. You see, on its extensively modified Abarth suspension, the 130TC's ride had all the subtlety of a Juventus defender practicing *catenaccio*. Soft, supple and forgiving it wasn't. Such a tough set-up was fine for the track (Fiat had one eye on domestic Group N racing) but made it pretty wearing around town.

Yes, the VW Golf GTi was the more sophisticated all-rounder and it was better built. At What Car? we set up a group test adding the XR3i and Astra GTE to the equation. Each had its own virtues but none had the speed and exuberant street-fighter character of the 13oTC. Today, more than 30 years on, that is what I still remember.

Throughout the Fiat Strada story which began in 1978, evolved through two facelifts and ended 10 years later with the introduction of the Tipo, there's no doubt that the Abarth 130TC was the star of the show. It remains the most interesting and most collectible model. Survivors are rare (perhaps as few as 30 left in the UK) and increasingly prized today, and no wonder. But the whole Strada range has earned its place in history. Designed by computer, silenced by laser, built by robots, the Strada wilfully put a whole new spin on the art of 1970s family motoring.





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Auto Italia at Brooklands

More Brooklands events for our readers to enjoy in 2018

ITALIAN CAR DAY SATURDAY MAY 5TH

The 33rd Italian Car Day will be held at Brooklands on Saturday May 5th. With over 6500 visitors last year, this event is the largest gathering of Italian cars in the UK and possibly the largest outside of Italy.

2018 will be a milestone for this popular event as it marks the completion of improvements to the museum infrastructure. The relocation of the Bellman hangar has freed up much needed display space and provides an uninterrupted view of the former race track start and finish straight from the paddock all the way up the banking. The restored hangar is now home to the "Aircraft Factory", which houses a superb display of part restored aircraft and artefacts. Check out the P1127 Harrier prototype suspended from the ceiling.

The event is open to all Italian car owners and there will be road signage directing cars to the appropriate entrances. There will be parking for other marques via Mercedes-Benz World. New this year is a dedicated entrance for all Alfa Romeo and Abarth owners via the The Heights. It is highly recommended that all Italian car owners pre-book their discounted entry tickets through the Brooklands website. Apart from the cost saving, Italian cars entering via the Brooklands Road entrance will enjoy fast track entry.

An action packed programme will include the demonstration of selected cars on the Mercedes-Benz World circuit and the challenging Test Hill. The theme for the track entry this year will be supercars and Italian classics. The Test Hill entry will be prebooked and open to all Italian cars, some spaces maybe available on the day. Owners of suitable cars are invited to apply to organiser Phil Ward for consideration. **Email mail@philwardevents.com** For images of last year's event visit: www.flickr.com/photos/michaelwardphotos



Roofless Streak

This 1975 Berlinetta Boxer has two reasons for being unique: it was owned by Clint Eastwood, and it's had its roof chopped off

Story: Ruoteclassiche/Marco Visani Photos: Ruoteclassiche/Dirk De Jager



o you feel lucky? Well, do you, punk? When this Ferrari 365 GT4 Berlinetta Boxer was bought by one Mr Eastwood (first name Clint), he evidently didn't feel lucky enough. Perhaps it was the heat of those Californian summers that persuaded the man who was Dirty Harry to have his BB's roof cut off.

The 365 GT4 BB holds a very special place in Ferrari lore, regardless of whether it has a targa roof or not. As the very first Ferrari road car to be fitted with a midmounted engine, and the first with a 12-cylinder boxer unit, it was a true trailblazer.



Enzo Ferrari liked to say, "horses never push the carriage, they pull it." But engineering developments during the 196os, and the emergence of the supercar genre, took things in exactly the opposite direction. Formula 1 racing cars had proven that having the engine sited behind the driver, in a mid-mounted position, simply made the chassis work more effectively. The 'Drake' loved playing the contrarian but he was perfectly aware of the advantages of the midengined format: after all, Maranello had been relying on centrally-engined racing cars from 1961, when Carlo Chiti reinterpreted the English school of thinking. In 1967, the Dino 206 GT translated the concept to road-going cars. The mid-engined Dino sub-brand sat alongside Ferrari rather like the front-wheel drive Autobianchi Primula did to Fiat. But there is more. It was the launch, in 1966, of the Lamborghini Miura that really accelerated Ferrari's switch to the 'push-horsepower' format.

The truth is that the tractor builder, Lamborghini, having boldly decided to compete against Ferrari, had made not only a promising start but pioneered the mid-engined road car phenomenon with the Miura. Enzo found it hard to swallow that Ferruccio could



FERRARI PARTS SPECIALIST

outdo him with a conceptually much more advanced car than his. That's the reason why, at the Turin Motor Show in November 1971, Ferrari presented its first prototype of the Berlinetta Boxer.

Not only was the engine sited behind the driver and passenger, it was a completely new 12-cylinder unit, never seen on production Ferraris before (although such a powerplant had been fitted to sports racers and Formula 1 cars). It featured two banks of six cylinders placed 180 degrees in opposition to each other, rather than Ferrari's traditional 60-degree 'V – hence the name 'Boxer'.

Quite apart from the technical side, the BB represented a complete stylistic revolution compared to Ferraris that had gone before. Its design was signed off by Pininfarina (the hand of Leonardo Fioravanti, in fact), using the elegant proportions of the Dino as a launch point and bringing near-perfect lines to the supercar genre. There were some very bold details, too: retractable headlights, matt built-in bumpers, matched to similarly hued lower flanks, and huge dams on the bonnet sucking air to the carburettors.

It would be a further two years until the production version of the BB arrived in the summer of 1973. The 365 GT4 BB changed very little compared to the concept car: the only real difference was the adoption of six rear lights and six exhaust outlets instead of four. This was a very low car (just 1120mm tall) and its construction of an aluminium body over a tubular steel frame made it very lightweight. In its original guise, the 380hp engine allowed a top speed – at least a claimed one – of 300km/h (186mph). In the US, the speedometer was marked up to 200mph. All in all, the new BB made the 365 Daytona seem like it was from a completely different epoch.

There was even a tinge of racing car about it. The

Perhaps because he's 6ft 3in tall, Clint had his BB transformed into a targa – a very neat conversion







RARI 365 GT4 BB TARGA

star-shaped five-spoke rims with their centre wheel nuts had already been introduced on the Daytona in 1968, after an idea that designer Leonardo Fioravanti took from racing Ferraris. The one-piece hinged rear section allowed easy access to the engine compartment, like a racer.

After manufacturing 387 units, Ferrari evolved the 365 GT4 in 1976 into the 512 BB, identifiable by its four lights on the tail and NACA air intakes in front of the rear wheelarches. The 512 badge referred to the revised specification: a 5.0-litre 12-cylinder engine. However, it was actually less powerful than the previous model (it had 20hp less at 360hp), partly because it had to comply with strict American antipollution rules. In 1981, the replacement of carburettors with fuel injection in the BBi dropped that even further to 340hp. The BB remained on the market until the advent, in 1984, of the Testarossa.

CLINT'S ROOFLESS STREAK

So, on to Clint's very special car. Mr Eastwood was far from a stranger to Ferraris, or indeed Berlinetta Boxers. He actually bought the third BB ever built, a red 1973 example. The example you see on these pages, a Series One BB in Grigio Ferro with beige interior, was bought second-hand by Clint. Chassis 18553 had rolled off Maranello's production line on 28 May 1975 and was delivered initially to Campagnano Automobili Srl which sold it to an Italian customer called Germani. It was subsequently exported to the United States, where it was equipped with federal-standard bumpers by the importer, Amerispec Corporation (as evidenced by a plate that's still affixed to the car).

It was in December 1977 that this car became part of Clint Eastwood's collection. Very soon afterwards, the American actor decided to convert it into a 'targa' by commissioning a roof cut job from a Connecticutbased craftsman. Perhaps Eastwood was tired of driving with his head scraping the roof: he is no shortarse, measuring 6ft 4in tall, and the BB is hardly known for its generous headroom. Perhaps that's why he had the car converted to a targa roof, in the style of a 328 GTS. Ferrari never made an open-roof version of the BB officially but several tuning companies did, including Straman in the USA, which reportedly did two such conversions.

Eastwood owned the car for eight years, eventually parting with it in 1985. The car then passed among several owners in the US West Coast collector scene, before emigrating to Nagoya, Japan. The new owner returned the bumpers back to their original European specification, but the BB was destined to return back to the USA, as is often the case with 'big shots'. The current owner, William E Heinecke, bought the car at the Pebble Beach auction in 2011. It subsequently appeared at the Concours d'Elegance at Villa d'Este in 2016.

So what's the roof like? The solid panel comes out in one piece and there's room behind the seats for it to be stowed neatly, held in place by two smart leather strips. To convert the targa back into a coupe, the roof is a simple fit. The removable roof certainly doesn't



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affect the original Pininfarina lines adversely.

Driving this unusual 'targa' BB is quite a unique experience, since it allows you to enjoy *en plein air* the sound of the V12 behind the seats. With less than 30,000 miles on the clock, the engine is more flexible than we were expecting – you might even call it exuberant. There's plenty enough power here to extend the chassis beyond its limits: serious oversteer is ready to bite, and not everybody can handle such snap reactions easily. Part of the blame lies with the rather light steering, which Ferrari plainly set up for low-speed manoeuvring, rather than sudden opposite lock movements. Ultimately, this feels like a car more suited to cruising in the sun than hard cornering.

Let's not be too hard on it, though: when you hear the wail of the V12 engine through the open top, you can just about picture yourself as a 1970s Formula 1 driver. Even if that's an F1 driver simply popping back to his Monte Carlo pad.

81mm x 71mm

4390cc V12 DOHC boxer

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FERRARI 365 GT4 BB

ENGINE: BORE X STROKE: COMPRESSION RATIO: INDUCTION: POWER: TORQUE: TRANSMISSION: SUSPENSION:

BRAKES: TYRES: DIMENSIONS: WEIGHT: MAX SPEED: 0-62MPH: 8.8: 1 Four triple-body Weber 40 IFC3 carbs 380hp at 7200rpm 318lb ft (431Nm) at 3900rpm Five-speed manual, rear-wheel drive Transverse arms, coil springs, anti-roll bar, telescopic dampers Ventilated discs 215/70 VR15 4360mm (L), 1800mm (W), 1120mm (H) 1160kg (dry) 186mph (claimed) 5.6sec







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COSI FANTUZZI

The extraordinary story of this Fantuzzi-bodied Maserati 150 GT Spider contains a hidden history: it was also a Mille Miglia racer *and* a prototype for the 300S

> Story by Phil Ward & Chris Rees Photography by Michael Ward and Gooding & Co



xactly what to call this Fantuzzibodied Maserati is a rather difficult task, which is probably why its complete provenance has taken most of its 61-year life to establish. Only over the last few years have experts been able to piece together the story of how a works racing Maserati became a factory prototype and then a coachbuilt one-off road car.

Let's call it 'Maserati 150 GT Spider'. With chassis and engine number 003, it was constructed in 1957 but its origins actually stretch several years further back than this, and it might equally correctly be referred to as a Maserati A6GCS or indeed a 300S prototype.

Of all the cars built by Maserati during the 1950s, the one-of-a-kind 150 GT Spider has proved to be one of the most enigmatic. Unknown even to many expert enthusiasts, this dual-purpose sports car has remained something of a mystery for many years, with an elusive history.

David Brynan, a specialist with Gooding and Co (the auctioneers), said it started out

as a Maserati A6GCS/53, one of 52 such cars fitted with a double overheadcamshaft 170hp 2.0-litre straight-six engine, which Maserati only built from 1953 to 1955. This particular car is one of a handful that Maserati's own works team raced during 1954.

In May 1954, Maserati provided celebrated works driver Luigi Musso with a brand new A6GCS for the Mille Miglia. Significantly, Musso's new A6GCS was christened with chassis number 2043, the same identity as the car that he raced throughout the 1953 season. Not that this was unusual: Maserati 'repurposed' several competition chassis in its early years.

Piloted by Musso and Zocca, the 'new' 2043 departed from Brescia and, after an epic 12-hour battle with Vittorio Marzotto's Ferrari 500 Mondial, finished the 1000-mile race in third overall and second in class. Musso's podium finish in the 2.0-litre A6GCS represented Maserati's best result thus far in the Mille Miglia.

Musso achieved further successes in the 1954 season, leading to his second

consecutive Italian Championship in the 2000cc category; an overall win at the Grand Prix di Napoli; second overall and first in class at the Targa Florio; a win at the Grand Prix di Caserta; and third place at the Grand Prix of Imola.

In June 1954, Musso campaigned 2043 at the Gran Premio Supercortemaggiore at Monza, now fitted with a detuned 250F engine. He retired in both this race and his last in this car, the Grand Prix Pietro Cidonio. After this, Musso switched to a new A6GCS MkII and 2043 was handed over to Sergio Mantovani for the Coppa d'Oro delle Dolomiti. Still equipped with its 250F engine, the A6GCS won overall, defeating Cabianca's OSCA MT4 and Gerini's Ferrari 250. For the latter part of the 1954 season, Valenzano was entrusted with 2043, notably achieving an outright win at Borzonasca-La Squazza.

After this final outing, 2043 seemingly disappeared from sight. But the well-used works A6GCS simply found a new role. Maserati's racing department stripped 2043 back to its chassis. Why? Because it needed a prototype for the 300S, so it





simply repurposed 2043 using Maserati's 3.o-litre straight-six engine. The intention was develop a new model to contest the World Sportscar Championship. Maserati's 2.o-litre offerings stood little chance against the might of Ferrari, Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz and Aston Martin. Maserati's 300S would be a sports car that combined the balance of the A6GCS with the power of its 250F Grand Prix car.

The very first development car was entered in the 1954 Mille Miglia, where Mantovani was forced to retire. A new prototype chassis was then built: a strengthened version of the 1505/200S spaceframe but this entered only one race – the 1954 Gran Premio Supercortemaggiore at Monza – before being used to test sixcylinder engines. The third stage was the official 300S prototype, internally designated 003 – and this is the car that was based on chassis 2043.

It featured an advanced transaxle and showed great promise, but retained the A6GCS chassis which, albeit developed, ultimately proved inadequate, so extensive chassis revisions were undertaken. In December 1954, Jean Behra performed the final tests on 003 and, soon after, Maserati began gearing up for 300S production.

No longer having any use for oo3, the racing department stripped the prototype of its mechanical components and coachwork (the 300S prototype body would eventually be mounted on A6GCS chassis 2099). oo3 was converted from right-hand to left-hand drive but was left at the racing department for some 18 months before Maserati found yet another use for it.

At about this time, Maserati was developing the 150S, a smaller sports car to

replace its A6G/2000, with a 1.5-litre fourcylinder engine. Maserati's racing department once again used the A6GCS-cum-300S chassis, revising it to accept a full-race 150S engine, an A6G/2000 gearbox casing, a 200S propshaft and an A6GCS rear end assembly. While the front suspension remained virtually unchanged from A6GCS spec, the front brakes were sourced from a 250F, and the steering combined both 250F and A6G/2000 components. Other interesting features included a 200S radiator, A6GCS rear brakes, a 150S oil pump, and a new wet-sump lubrication system better suited for road use.

The new sports car prototype would be called the 150 GT Spider. According to the factory build sheet for chassis 003, the 150 GT Spider was constructed in late 1957.

To clothe the chassis, Maserati turned to Medardo Fantuzzi of Carrozzeria Fantuzzi, its preferred coachbuilder for sports racing and grand prix cars. It was Fantuzzi who had been responsible for the designs of both the A6GCS/53 and the 300S. For the 150 GT Spider, he created a open-topped body in lightweight aluminium, which bore similarities to Frua's A6G/2000 Spiders. While Pietro Frua has been given credit for the 150 GT design, it is highly probable that Carrozzeria Fantuzzi simply developed its own body for the car that drew inspiration from Frua.

Finished in Avorio (ivory) with Marrone (brown) upholstery, the 150 GT Spider maintained the right-hand-drive configuration of the 300S prototype and had a full convertible top and roll-up windows.

Sadly, the car's complex specification was its undoing. Maserati judged it too expensive to build in series. The 150 GT prototype was deemed unviable and Maserati management decided to move on to a new project, the



3500 GT. As late as July 1959, one motoring journal reported: "The 1500cc Grand Turismo has been pulled out from under the dust sheets and given two days of testing on the autodrome and in the mountains. The Orsis still hope that eventually they will have this car in mass production."

That never happened, and the 150 GT Spider remained squirrelled away out of the public eye in the factory's racing department. A factory record dated 31 October 1959 confirms the 150 GT Spider's status: "Unique example – Prototype."

The 150 GT was sold, according to delivery note dated 10 March 1960, to the newly appointed British Maserati agent, Colin Murray of Fleetwood, Lancashire. It was sold on later in 1960, now registered '3 CLP'. The 150 GT Spider went through several UK owners before receiving some minor restoration work in the early 1980s. It was then sold to a German collector. Its next European owner, who bought it painted red with a black interior around 2007, finally began to some serious research into its history. He found that the car's documentation didn't make any sense, leading him to discover the history just quoted above.

As much was confirmed by respected marque authority Adolfo Orsi, who conducted a lot of research into the history of this important Maserati. He obtained documents from the Maserati factory archives and inspected the car personally during and after its restoration.

Although the Maserati build sheet reported that the chassis was a "200S frame modified by us," it soon became clear that this was far from the truth. According to Orsi: "We carefully examined the chassis and,

MASERATI 150 GT SPIDER





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Unique 150 GT Spider was a surprise entrant at the Silver Flag hillclimb in 2016; it sounded fantastic



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS MASERATI 150 GT SPIDER

ENGINE:	1994cc DOHC in-line 4-cyl
INDUCTION:	Twin Weber 40 DCO3 carbs
POWER:	190hp @ 7200rpm
TORQUE:	206Nm (152lb ft) @ 3000rpm
TRANSMISSION:	Four-speed manual with synchromesh
SUSPENSION:	ndependent front with coil springs and Houdaille dampers, live rear axle with semi-elliptical leaf springs
BRAKES:	Hydraulic drums all round
WEIGHT:	840kg
	-





comparing its characteristics to other Maserati cars, we arrived at the conclusion that its chassis was built originally for use as the basis of an experimental sports car which, during its development, was modified several times. Then it was set aside for a time and it was modified one last time to become the basis of a new prototype for a new experimental 1500 GT car."

Over a three-year period in its latest owner's hands, the car was meticulously restored and returned to its original cream colour with a brown interior. The Fantuzzi coachwork was painstakingly refinished – for instance, four new bumpers were fashioned using wooden bucks to the original specifications, while the front grille (which had been modified over the years) was returned to its original 'moustache' spec using archive photographs.

The mechanical restoration was undertaken by Steve Hart Racing. The engine

was rebuilt to full competition specification and bored out to 2.0 litres to make it more driveable. The A6G/2000 gearbox, meanwhile, was sent to Corrado Patella in Italy for overhaul. All five Borrani wire wheels were refurbished and mounted with period-correct Blockley racing tyres.

This one-of-a-kind Maserati 150 GT was then auctioned by Gooding & Co in 2013, when it fetched over three million dollars. It is now in the ownership of a discerning Austrian collector called Andreas Mohringer.

Auto Italia caught up with the Maserati 150 GT when it made a surprise entry – and a very pleasant one – at the 2016 Silver Flag hillclimb. The Club Piacentino Auto d'Epoca (CPAE) event, famous for attracting rare and interesting Italian cars, is described by organiser Claudio Casali as a "dynamic concours" and it certainly provided the perfect scenario for the 150 GT Spider to be seen in action.



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The Italian Job

This Italian-built Mini was born as a simple means of getting around import tariffs – but it was also superior to the UK-built Mini in many ways

Story by Richard Bremner Images by Michael Ward





his story of the 'Italian Mini' is more topical than it might seem, because it illustrates why Britain was so keen to join the Common Market during the 1960s/'70s, and why the UK car industry is now so fearful of Britain leaving the European Union. But before we get to the entertaining world of tariffs, customs duties and import fees – we know you can't wait – you may be wondering why a Mini, that most British of objects, is appearing in a magazine about Italian cars.

Then again, if you've heard of Innocenti, you'll probably know why, as it made Minis under licence in Italy from 1965 to 1976. The content of these cars increasingly diverged from their UK cousins as they were developed to suit Italian tastes. These deviations can get car spotters, me included, quite excited.

This commercial arrangement came about partly because the Milanese company (famous for its Lambretta scooters) wanted to compete in the fastgrowing car market, and partly because the British

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Motor Corporation (Austin, Austin-Healey, Morris, MG, Wolseley, Riley and Vanden Plas) was keen to find ways of exporting more to a Europe fairly well walled with trade tariffs. The desire for a country to protect its domestic industry is often the main driver for import tariffs; indeed these duties and taxes did much to shape the motor industry during the last century. They've certainly triggered some oddballs, including a rebodied Ford Anglia in Italy (the Torino) and a South African-built 3.0-litre V6 Alfa Romeo Alfetta GTV.

Tariffs have also prompted some popular cars to be produced in some unusual countries, not least the BMC Mini: Belgium, Venezuela, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and even Chile, where Minis were bodied in glassfibre to meet a rule insisting that a high percentage of the car's weight be locally produced. It might seem odd that Minis were made in Belgium when it's such a short distance away, but such was the nature of tariffs beyond the Channel. They varied by country, but were often profit-savagingly hefty – in

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Antica



Germany they were 14.5% at the beginning of the 1960s, rising to 17.5% by 1969, while in Italy and France it was 19.2% in 1966, and 22% by 1968. Britain had hoped to join the Common Market in 1963 but was vetoed by France, making the deal between the British Motor Corporation and Innocenti announced on 6 August 1959 (just a fortnight before the Mini was launched) all the more strategically valuable.

Ferdinando Innocenti founded his steel tubing business in 1931 in Milan, its patented scaffolding system proving very successful. During WW2 much of the factory was destroyed and the company used government grants to move into scooter manufacture. Lambrettas became almost as well-known in Britain as they were in Italy, the huge popularity of these buzzing two-wheelers part of the post-war Italian economic miracle. Italians soon switched from scooters to cars – mainly Fiat 500s and 600s – and the canny Ferdinando was keen to make the same graduation.

The first progeny of his deal with BMC was the Austin A40, ironically an Italian-styled machine whose two-box, Pininfarina-sculpted silhouette was an early, unknowing stab at the supermini revolution to come. Innocenti would manufacture over 67,000 A40s from 1960 to 1967, supplementing its numbers with a Ghia restyle of the MG Midget. In 1963 came the IM3S, a reworked Morris 1100, but it would not be until 1965 that the Mini was introduced, more than five years after its UK launch.

Despite the delay, the Mini would be easily Innocenti's biggest seller, around 440,000 having been sold by the end of 1975. Italian customers were first offered the basic 850 saloon (labelled Mini Minor) as well as the Traveller estate (Mini T). The first Cooper came in 1966, with a 1.0-litre twin-carb engine. These Minis were largely identical to the home-built variety, but carried upgrades including the tougher driveshaft inner joints from the Cooper S, and for all but the earliest cars, servo-assisted disc front brakes; Innocenti clearly expected the car to be driven hard.

The desire to source many components locally saw many trim parts redesigned to suit Italian tastes. Innocentis were also slightly more expensive than their home-grown equivalents, underlining the need to produce cars of better quality than British Leyland's Longbridge and Cowley factories were achieving. Not hard you might cynically say, although Innocenti achieved this goal with subtle Italian flourish. The most obvious alien element was at the rear, the boot lid pressing reshaped to take a square numberplate rather than a rectangular one, complemented by a tiny one at the front. Less easy to spot were the reprofiled headlamp bezels, Cooper grille and tail lamps sourced from Altissimo rather than Lucas. Inside the central three-dial instrument pack had a faux wood finish, there were proper interior door handles rather than the pull-cords of UK Mini Mk1s and instruments from Veglia or Jaeger. Even the shape of the chrome instrument bezels differed. Footling stuff to some, perhaps, but fascinating for enthusiasts, besides producing a better class of Mini.

Later came opening quarter-lights, side repeaters on the front wings and bigger, squarer taillights, which predated the same improvement on UK-built cars. The Cooper got Rostyle wheels, superior seats and a new, five-dial instrument pack that was far nicer than BL's effort in the contemporary 1275 GT. Even lesser models got face-level vents and a stylish faux-wood steering wheel rim with the Mk3 introduced in 1970.

The pinnacle came with the Mini Cooper 1300, introduced in 1972. While British Leyland had dropped the Cooper name in in 1969 because BL boss Donald Stokes didn't want to pay royalties to John Cooper anymore, Innocenti stayed faithful. More than that, it added equipment while cheeseparing BL produced the slower, less sophisticated, bluff-nosed Clubman 1275 GT.

Apart from using a more robust 1275cc A-Series engine with 11 cylinder head studs rather than nine, it came with an oil cooler, a pressurised cooling system and an alternator. The engine wasn't quite to Cooper S spec because it ran a milder camshaft, but it produced 70hp in a car weighing 670kg - enough for some energetic zest and almost 100mph. The Cooper 1300 also got the same impressive five-dial dashboard, cloth-faced and more shapely seats, an improved pedal layout, superior carpets and a two-tone paint finish.

The company also introduced the Mini 1001, a betterequipped 1.0-litre Mini. By now the range was sufficiently upmarket and desirable that it began to be offered alongside UK-built cars in France, Germany and Benelux. The 1001 Export and Cooper 1300 Export had slightly better equipment and sported red British Leyland badges set within a circle of flying arrows to symbolise their export status. They sold well, and ought to have embarrassed their British Leyland parent



Italian-built Minis were superior to UK ones in many ways, like the cabin, driveshafts and brakes

INNOCENTI MINI COOPER







TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE:	998cc 4-cyl
POWER:	60hp @ 6000rpm
TORQUE:	62lb ft (84Nm) @ 3000rpm
TRANSMISSION:	Four-speed manual, front-wheel drive
SUSPENSION:	Lower wishbones front, trailing arms rear, Hydrolastic interconnected spring/damper units, rear coil springs
BRAKES:	Discs front, drums rear
TYRES:	5.20 x 10
DIMENSIONS:	3050mm (L) 1410mm (W) 1340mm (H)
WEIGHT:	650kg
MAX SPEED:	93mph
0-62MPH:	14.7sec
FUEL (COMBINED):	36.7mpg
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not only with their superiority of finish, but also the fact that unusually for Minis, they were profitable.

Despite their extra allure, Innocenti Minis are pretty rare machines in the UK, the extra goodies and glamour they provide being outweighed, for most enthusiasts, by the fact that they are all left-hand drive. The Mini you're looking at here, then, is quite rare in the UK. It was opportunistically bought by Alfa specialist Jamie Porter while in Italy, his thinking being to bring it home, improve it, and turn himself a profit. The improving process has occurred, but selling it for a profit has not, he notes with a rueful smile, because his father-in-law fancied it, and bought it at cost.

Even if you don't know about Innocenti, don't care about trivial trim differences but are aware that Minis are British, you will notice one thing when you sit behind this Cooper's familiarly angled steering wheel: the funny black box beneath the dashboard is labelled in Italian – 'Int vettura', 'Parabrezza' and 'Chiuso' ('Car Interior', 'Windscreen' and 'Closed' settings for the fresh air heater).

If you're a Mini-land habitué, on the other hand, you can momentarily amuse yourself by spotting the names of unfamiliar parts suppliers – St Gobain rather than Triplex glass, Veglia Borletti instruments rather than Smiths and an alloy-spoked steering wheel by Hellebore. Start the twin-carb 1.0-litre A-Series of this Cooper and it jumps into life, sounding just like... well, a Mini.

If you've never experienced this landmark car, then you need to know that a) you should, and b) you sit surprisingly close to the ground, that the steering wheel feels a bit distant, the accelerator is ludicrously tiny, the dashboard switches are a stomach-crushing stretch, the view out is excellent and that despite the feeling that you're sitting in a tiny car, you really don't feel cramped.

What you should also feel, assuming you manage to avoid stalling via the Mini's abrupt clutch, is relatively light steering, and almost every bump on the road ahead. Aboard this car, however, the steering is quite heavy because the wheels wear over-wide tyres. And some bumps – though not many – fail to impact on your rear-end. That's partly because of the tyres' extra sidewall flex, and partly because this car rides on Hydrolastic suspension. Once common on tens of thousands of BMC and BL models, Hydrolastic uses rubber as a springing medium, and fluid dampers interconnected front to rear on each side of the car.

It sometimes smoothes a Mini's often comically bouncy ride, but also allows it to pitch more than it should, besides offering less body control at high speed. But the Mini's fundamental handling remains, light understeer overlaying a decently grippy front end, with scope to get the back wheels sliding should you lift off in a hurriedly-taken bend.

Not that we're trying that with this shiny Innocenti, which flaunts all the dynamic hallmarks of a Mini, good and bad, but with some exotic foreign visual polish that adds real intrigue. This car's 1.0-litre engine feels lightly peppy but a Cooper 1300 (an Innocenti I have craved for decades) should be quite a classy entertainer. 60hp 1.0-litre engine is fairly peppy in 650kg Mini. Hydrolastic suspension suffers a bit more pitch than rubber-only set-up



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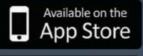
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CLUB ITALIA REPORTS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND ITALIAN CAR CLUBS

Race Retro 2018

Rally stars provided plenty of thrills – and some spills – at the historic motorsport show

Words: Peter Baker Images: Michael Ward & Peter Baker





s a springboard to the historic motor racing season Race Retro has, since its inception back in 2003, become one of the most important UK-based weekends of the year. Three days are given over to the competitive side of 'classic' car ownership, where deals can be struck, championships entered and precious parts secured in readiness for the forthcoming season – not just racing, but sprints, hillclimbs, autotests and of course, rallying.

Race Retro 2018, held at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire in February, excelled itself, bringing together even more specialists, iconic race and rally cars, and well-known personalities, including Miki Biasion, Brian Redman, Matt Neal, Russell Brookes, Norman Dewis and Steve Parrish.

As well as displays, club stands and a tribute to the late Dan Gurney, the four recently refurbished halls offered everything from autojumble to art, watches to workshop tools, trailers to track days, and jackets to jerry-cans. There was no excuse to go home empty handed.

Historic motorsport, and in particular, rallying in all its forms, has now become big business, with everything from long distance pan-European non-damaging regularity events, to special stage championship rallies that mirror the tough epics of yesteryear. In view of that popularity, the Live Rally Stage – recently expanded and running a demanding course beginning just yards from the exhibition halls – attracted an entry of over 100 cars with Lancia, Ferrari, Fiat and Abarth taking on the best landmark rally cars of Britain, France and Germany.

Miki Biasion opened proceedings in a Lancia Fulvia 1600HF, followed by an altogether much wilder Alister McRae, whose off-roading in the big Subaru Legacy pleased the large crowd no end. Later, Alister switched to the ex-Markku Alen Fiat 131 Abarth owned by Geoff Jones. Afterwards he







told me: "I like both cars but I was surprised at just how fast and secure the 131 is, I could really throw it around."

Caught between a host of sideways Mk2 Ford Escorts, Tony Worswick broke the monotony with his bright yellow Ferrari 308 GTB, pushing it to the limit, and more than once brushing the straw bales. Another yellow car, the diminutive, but beautifully prepared, Fiat Cinquecento Abarth of Mark Barnes charged on at the rear of the pack.

Of course, at some point during the twohour session something had to give, and sure enough, after 40 minutes, Christian Prynne brought proceedings to a halt when he tried just a bit too hard and rolled his Peugeot 205 GTi. Luckily, the only injury sustained was pride and he was soon on his way. In fact, all drivers treated the event as jolly good fun and certainly gave their paying passengers a treat. And with no overall winner, everyone went home happy.

NEXT MONTH: We interview Miki Biasion about his time rallying Lancias and the people who made Lancia rallying great.



ABOVE: Things not going quite as planned for Christian Prynne... ABOVE CENTRE: Ian Stirling's immaculate Ferrari 348 Challenge RIGHT: BGM Sport Abarth 131 was one of the stars of the rally stage





Hiding in amongst the autojumble was a rather intriguing offering, claiming to be an Abarth 2000. I could be wrong but I recall seeing this particular set of bodywork attached to a rolling chassis in the Maranello Rosso collection back in 2014. Is this the Abarth 2000 Sport Prototipo 'Cuneo', I wonder? Michael Ward











CLUB ITALIA REPORTS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND ITALIAN CAR CLUBS

Rallye Monte Carlo Historique It was Lancia that triumphed at the 2018 winter rally

Words & images: Peter Baker



fter five days of regularity competition, involving some 300 cars and 15 timed mountain stages in mid-winter, it was the dark red Lancia Fulvia of Gianmaria Aghem and Diego Cumino that arrived at the end of Rallye Monte Carlo Historique 2018 as the winner. The Italian pair finally succeeded in beating off a long and determined challenge from the much more powerful Ford Falcon Sprint of Germans, Michael Bruns and Frank Westenburger, only after the big V8 engine threw a rod just before the final stage, forcing their retirement.

In fact, there was plenty of good news for Lancia with three Fulvias, a Beta Coupe and the Daniele Perfetti/Ronnie Kessel Stratos all making it into the top 20. Unfortunately, the front-running Lancia Flavia ABOVE: Steve and Tony Graham departing Reims in their Lancia Fulvia 1600HF





Coupe of Eugenio Rossi/Michelle Perlino suffered gearbox problems mid-rally, dropping them out of the top 10. Also well placed in 15th position after an outstanding drive was the Polish-entered Fiat X1/9 of Jacek Miller and Maciej Orzechowski.

Easily the most popular of winter 'classic' rallies, entry is restricted to cars manufactured from 1955-1980. Once again it attracted a full international entry. Of 72 Italian cars that started the Rallye, 57 finished. Following true Monte-style there were five start points around Europe: Barcelona, Bad Homburg, Glasgow, Reims and Oslo, as well as Monte Carlo. From 31 January, crews departed on the compulsory overnight, back-road, 'concentration' run, each covering around 450km before arriving in the small French town of Bourgoin-Jallieu deep in the province of Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes, where the rally was to begin in earnest. Tired teams then had to tackle two special timed stages before reaching Valence, the first overnight halt.

To help counteract what is always a tough event, the organisers approach the Rallye with a certain amount of leniency; service crews are allowed, as are studded tyres, uprated safety equipment and, because overall results are arrived at using average speeds, combined with myriad undisclosed timing points, the very latest in distance measuring equipment. This all adds up to an enormous moving circus with a theatrical atmosphere only rivalled by Italy's Mille Miglia.



ABOVE: 8th overall for this standard-looking Lancia Beta Coupe of Maurizio Aiolfi and Michela Nodi

ABOVE: The winners of the 2018 Rallye Historique were Gianmaria Aghem and Diego Cumino in their 1965 Lancia Fulvia 1200



ABOVE: 15th overall for the X1/9 of Polish crew Jacek Miller and Maciej Orzechowski BELOW: Gian Maria Traversone and Nicolas Cuetara Gomez (from Costa Rical) campaigned in their Alfa Romeo 1600 GTA





ABOVE: 1968 Fiat Moretti 850S of Didier Lodewyckx and Patricia Lambert RIGHT: Italians Alessio de Angelis and Sergio Sisti in a rare 1978 Fiat Ritmo 60



ABOVE: The pretty 1977 Alfasud Ti of Italians Giorgio Liberatore and Paolo Calabrese BELOW: The sideways Fiat 131 Abarth of Ruggero Brunori and Claudio Filippin



After day one, the Aghem/Cumino 1200cc Fulvia was already figuring in the top 10, closely followed by the Flavia. But the Sunday stages, which included treacherous conditions over ZR3 (Burzet-Burzet) and ZR6 (Lamastre-Plats), saw the Falcon closing in, and by Monday's ZRg (Chalancon-Saint Nazaire), a thin margin of just 80 points separated the cars, now in first and second position. That margin was reduced by a further twenty points after ZR11. By the time the rally had reached Monte Carlo via Saint Andre les Alpes, with just two stages left to complete, including the infamous Col de Turini, the two crews were equal leaders. But all was not well with the Falcon Sprint, its engine sounding like a bag of nails. Bruns commented: "Well, I still have seven cylinders, so we carry on." Half an hour later, the big car was out of the rally. For the second time since 2005, a member of the Aghem family returned home winner of Rallye Monte Carlo Historique.



RALLYE MONTE CARLO HISTORIQUE 2018



ABOVE: Jason Wright and Stefano Traverso raced this 1976 Lancia Stratos BELOW: Maria Guido Pedone and Massimo Liverani's 1972 Fulvia Sport 1.3





LEFT: French crew of Olivier Lesein and Jean-Luc Girard and 1977 Alfa Romeo Alfletta GTV

BELOW: Autobianchi A112 Abarth of Carlos and Guillermo Berisso from Argentina

RIGHT: The UK-registered 1961 Lancia Flavia 1.5 Berlina in which we chased the rally





Entering into the spirit of the event, the reporting team chose to follow Rallye Monte Carlo Historique 2018 in a 1961 Lancia Flavia 1500 Berlina, a car very similar to the one that finished ninth overall on the original 1962 event, in the hands of Piero Frescobaldi and Marcella de Luca.

The 1960-launched Flavia, design-led by Antonio Fessia, was an important car in the history of Lancia, featuring front-wheel drive, a flat-four engine and all-round disc brakes. Although not the most rapid in accelerative terms, with its bench seat and column change, it was a true six-seater that could, on a good day, reach 95mph. Built to very high standards by an engineering team who shunned budgetary constraints, the Flavia was a quality product that Italy could, at least until the money ran out, be proud of. As a rally car it was underpowered, but in 1961, so was everything else.

Before setting out, our 2018 Media car was well serviced, provided with winter tyres and, as well as essential spares, carried a bag of tools and a set of snow-chains, neither of which were required during the 3730km return trip to Monte Carlo. Problems? None, unless you include a dodgy charging system that eventually resolved itself, and the awful heater, or what the handbook laughingly describes as an 'air-conditioning' system.

We would like to thank Omicron Engineering (www.omicron.uk.com) for its endless advice and supply of long-out-of-production spares, and Richard Micoud (Automobile Club de Monaco) who provided such an excellent interim results service.



CLUB ITALIA REPORTS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND ITALIAN CAR CLUBS

Automotoretrò

Turin's giant classic car show returns to Fiat's former factory at Lingotto. Oh, and we came back with a car...

Words & images: Chris Rees



utomotoretrò may not quite have the heft of Padova but it makes up for it by having a more down-to-earth feel – a classic car show for locals, you might say. This slice of heaven for Italophiles is held every year at Lingotto, where the Turin Motor Show used to be hosted and where Fiat used to build cars.

For four days in February, Automotoretrò (and its motorsport-themed sister, Automotoracing) attracted more than 67,000 visitors – a record number – drawn by over 3000 cars on display across four halls.

Easily the biggest talking point of the show was the FCA Heritage stand, not just for its beautifully reproduced 1950s garage look but for the fact that the Fiat group is now selling classic cars direct to the public under 'Reloaded by Creators' branding. On show – and on sale – were an Alfa Romeo Spider S4, Lancia Fulvia Coupé Montecarlo special edition and Spidereuropa Pininfarina.

My favourite on the FCA stand, though, was an unrestored Fiat-Abarth 850 TC, actually an unmarked Italian Finance Police anti-smuggling car – fantastic! It looked perfect just as it was and I actually felt a pang of regret that it was about to undergo complete restoration.

But the star of the show for me (and many showgoers I spoke to) was the Ghia/Monviso-bodied Fiat Multipla, which was originally built for the Italian TV company, RAI. Its corrugated body was a glorious mix of utility and design wonderment; I loved it. ABOVE: Spectacular Lancia Beta Montecarlo endurance racer of Caffi/Meiners part of great Lancia rally display



Another firm favourite with the public was a Bertone-bodied Siata convertible with a superbly wood-framed art deco interior.

Rally cars were big this year, notably a rich display of Lancia 0375. Even these were overshadowed by a monstrously magnificent Lancia Beta Montecarlo endurance racer, one of just 11 made from 1979 to 1982, which recently won the Jarama Classic with Alex Caffi and Franco Meiners driving.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Allemano Abarth 750; Ritmo Club; rare Scioneri 600 Spider; Vignale 750; Ghia-Monviso Multipla; unrestored Abarth 850 TC Other Lancia racers included an ex-works Fulvia HF 1.6 Group 4 rally car driven by Ballestrieri and a couple of glorious Lancia Fulvia Zagato Competiziones. Most people were perplexed but ultimately seduced by a Lancia Delta 'Nana' ('shorty') with just two doors. Built by Artemio Ballestin, it's a pukka rally machine and has even been tested by Miki Biasion. At the other end of the scale, a Fiat Panda rally car was constantly being swarmed.

Remember the insane Lamborghini V12-engined Fiat 500 of a few years ago? Well its builder, Gianfranco Dino, is back with the bonkers Oemmedi Fiat 500 Chrysler – a vintage 500 transformed into a two-seater spider with a Chrysler 3.5-litre V6 stuffed in the middle of it. A one-off, apparently...

I was also quite taken with a display of Fiat 500 catering vehicles, a superb Fiat Topolino estate decked out as a vintage Bianchi bicycle support vehicle and the 40th anniversary of the Fiat Ritmo (Strada) being celebrated on the Ritmo Club stand.

Seeing ultra-rarities in the metal is one of the big draws of any Italian car show and Turin didn't disappoint. I can't say the Gulf-liveried Allemano-bodied









Abarth 750 Spider looked terribly handsome, but when was the last time you saw one of these? Same with a 1963 Fiat 750 Vignale Coupe. Perhaps the rarest car of the show, though, was a ratty-looking Scioneri-bodied Fiat 600 Spider, one of just two built. Another car I'd never seen before was a 1979 Fiat 127 Rustica from Brazil – a kind of Rover Streetwise conceived 15 years earlier. And what about a transporter containing Agnelli's personal Lancia integrale convertible and a Dukes of Hazzard Fiat 124 Coupe?

I must make mention of the Automotoracing hall, which is half Max Power, half Autosport. The highlight was probably Federico Sceriffo's FFF Fiorella, a mental Ferrari 599 drift car with a 917hp twin-turbo V12. There was action aplenty just outside on the Oval di Torino, too, with demos by the likes of Graziano Rossi, Simone Campedelli and Alessandro Perico.

Finally, every year I visit Turin thinking I'll keep an eye out for something I can bring back from the sales halls. Myself and *Auto Italia* colleague, Richard Heseltine, had just swapped notes over our dream garage and agreed we'd love an Abarth Scorpione above almost anything else. Imagine our surprise at being greeted by a perfectly restored Scorpione SS the very next minute! On asking the price, however, we realised it would have to remain in our dreams, not end up in our garage. But we did actually buy a car at the show – a rare coupe sold new back in 1972 in Palermo. It's... a Honda Z600. I know; you go to Italy and you buy a Japanese car – doh! CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Fiat 127 Rustica; Abarth Scorpione SS; Honda Z600 (now in UK); rally-prepped 127; 'shorty' integrale; Delta S4 among many rally cars on show

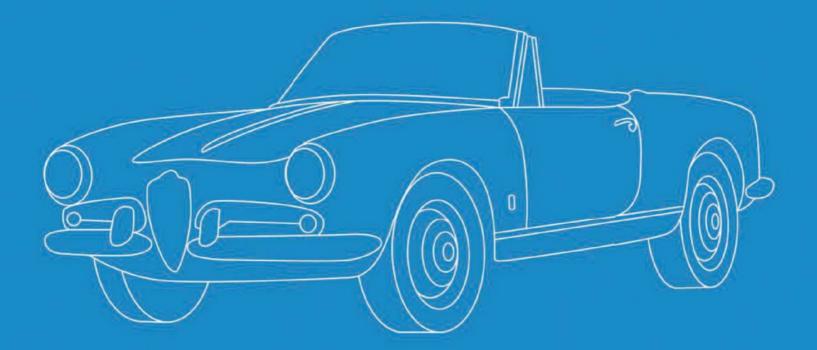








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BUYERS' GUIDE WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BUYING AND OWNING A CLASSIC ITALIAN CAR

ABARTH PUNTO

Feisty, understated and always a rare sight, the Abarth Punto is one of the great unsung hot hatchbacks. What should you look out for when buying?

Story by Richard Dredge Photography by Michael Ward



arlo Abarth started tuning small Fiats almost 70 years ago, in 1949. His company was so successful that Fiat took the opportunity to buy it in 1971, turning it into a subsidiary and generally failing to capitalise on the brand's heritage. For years it was no more than a badge stuck onto sporty hatches, but in 2008 Abarth was revived as a standalone brand, with its own headquarters and engineering team.

ABAR

The return of Abarth brought with it a heated-up Punto with a turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol engine, which over the years would come in various flavours. Indeed, the Abarth Punto's life is rather convoluted, so try to keep up...

/62 WHH

Having last used the Abarth badge on a warm Stilo built between 2001 and 2004, Fiat saw sense by relaunching Abarth as a separate brand with 500 and Punto models, the latter by now marketed as the Grande Punto. Launched in February 2008. the Abarth Grande Punto was fitted with a 155hp turbocharged 1.4 T-Jet engine. Only three colours were offered: Speed Red, Scorpion Black and 1949 White. For those who wanted something extra, Abarth dealers could supply a £2500 Assetto Corse package which included cross-drilled front discs, 18-inch multi-spoke alloys finished in

white, lower-profile tyres and a 20mm

reduction in ride height. A suite of engine mods was also available to boost power to 180hp. This package, dubbed esseesse, could be bought for £3500 including the Assetto Corse package. The kits were installed by official dealers rather than at the factory and had to be fitted within 12 months or 12,000 miles of purchase.

In March 2010, the Grande Punto was replaced by the 165hp Punto Evo with the same bodyshell as before, significant mechanical changes, a revised dashboard and an overhauled interior. As before, an esseesse kit was available, but this time it included Koni FSD uprated dampers with lowered springs and two-piece floating cross-drilled discs up front and a choice of white or titanium-coloured 18-inch multi-spoke wheels. Power remained at 180hp.

Abarth also produced 199 UK examples of the 18ohp Supersport in 2012, which featured a bigger exhaust, satin black 17-inch alloys and the option of an Assetto Corse kit to bring the car up to full esseesse spec. Matt black stripes and yellow Brembo brake callipers were optional.

Rarest of the lot is the Scorpione, of which just 10 examples were built in RHD for the UK, all to factory order. Based on the Supersport, the Scorpione came only in black and was a Punto Evo with the full esseesse package along with 18-inch gloss black multi-spoke wheels, Sabelt Corse seats and yellow brake callipers.

ON THE ROAD

With its own team of engineers, Abarth did a lot more than just apply decals. Every aspect of the Punto was scrutinised, resulting in a car that's tremendous fun to drive. Compared with the 12ohp Punto Sporting, throttle response is sharper thanks to a smaller turbo, while low-end torque is boosted through the use of a drive-by-wire throttle. In regular driving, there's peak torque of 152lb ft, but press the Sport Boost button on the dash and this rises to 169lb ft, while also sharpening the throttle response and adding weight to the steering. Without the Sport button pressed, the car is set up for smoother and more economical driving; pressing the button makes things a lot more zesty than the raw figures suggest.





Compared with the Punto Sporting, the Abarth has lowered, stiffer suspension, a thicker front anti-roll bar and 17-inch alloys; the result is a car that's tremendous fun in corners, without the ride being bone-jarring, although it is firm. If there's a fly in the ointment, it's the steering, which feels a touch artificial.

Brembo twin-pot callipers up front provide superbly reassuring stopping power, while recalibrated stability control allows keen on-road cornering without the electronic safety net cutting in too eagerly. Drive with skill on the track and you might be frustrated though, as the system can't be switched off altogether.

When the Punto Evo superseded the Grande Punto in 2010, the fitment of MultiAir technology made Abarth's hot hatch even better. The rest of the running gear was largely untouched; the new revised manual gearbox was seen a retrograde step, however, as it's not as slick. What the revised engine offered was improved flexibility and low-down torque, while it was even more willing to rev than before.

ENGINE & TRANSMISSION

The Grande Punto and Punto Evo engines share the same 1386cc bottom end but have different cylinder heads. While the Grande Punto has a regular twin-cam head, the Evo is fitted with Multiair, a variable valve timing system with inlet valves controlled hydraulically, and the exhaust valves actuated by a conventional camshaft. While the tech improves the driving experience, it's something of a reliability weak spot, so check for misfiring or hesitation under acceleration.







BUYERS' GUIDE: ABARTH PUNTO

There's no set mileage at which the MultiAir unit fails, but when it does you need to brace yourself for a £1000 bill to fix it. Using the correct oil is essential; Selenia 5W 40 is recommended.

All Abarth Puntos come with a six-speed manual gearbox; the Punto Evo having revised gear ratios. The Evo's gearbox is tough but the Grande Punto's transmission is an Achilles' Heel because of weak bearings and poor lubrication, so listen for whining galore and feel for baulky or stiff gear changes. If the gearbox hasn't had a rebuild already, it will need one at some point; budget £1000. The gearbox rebuild should feature bigger, stronger bearings while the oilways can be revised for better lubrication. Incidentally, this gearbox is the same as the one fitted to the Vauxhall Corsa VXR.

The driveshaft splines wear on high-mileage cars and replacements cost a hefty £500 apiece, so feel for play with the car on a ramp and listen for rumbling sounds. However, these noises could also be down to a tired rear wheel bearing; they're weak but replacing them isn't costly.

The suspension of all models is generally tough, but the Evo esseesse and Scorpione are fitted with an uprated set-up that uses high-tech Koni FSD dampers and shorter, stiffer springs. While the dampers don't tend to give problems, the springs are prone to snapping, usually at the bottom, so the damage is hidden by the spring sitting in the retaining cup. The top mounts can also wear after a relatively low mileage, given away by a knocking noise.







All Abarth Puntos have a six-speed gearbox. Interiors wear well. Model evolution is very complex















All Abarth Puntos are fitted with twin-pot callipers up front and it's a reliable system. But the Evo esseesse, Scorpione and Assetto Corsa-equipped SuperSport all have floating discs which cost around £650 to replace; that's almost four times as much as the cost of replacing the discs on the other editions.

CHASSIS & BODY

There are no areas that are rust-prone; only now are the earliest cars coming out of their 10-year antiperforation warranty. If there is any significant corrosion, the car is likely to have been crashed and poorly repaired, so analyse all of the panel gaps and shut lines very carefully.

The one weakness that has afflicted some cars is to be found on the Evo, whose bodykit can come unstuck, usually where the wheelarch meets the side skirt. A good bodyshop will be able to refit these using an industrial-spec bonding agent and special clamps to hold it all in place until it cures.

INTERIOR

The heavily bolstered front seats wear well, but check for damage anyway. If the car is fitted with the optional Sabelt seats, make sure the tilt function works. The cable that controls this can snap, preventing access to the rear seats.

Electrical glitches tend to be few and far between. The stop/start system can be temperamental, while the MAP sensor (at the back of the inlet manifold) gets damp which leads to erratic running. This is mainly down to a poorly fitting seal which runs across the top

HIIIIIII

ARARTH

of the scuttle tray. It can come adrift allowing water to drip onto the MAP sensor.

RUNNING COSTS

While the maintenance schedule for the regular Abarth Grande Punto is set at every 18,000 miles or 12 months, the esseesse cuts this to annually or every 6000 miles. Every five years or 72,000 miles, the timing belt needs to be replaced; expect to pay around £250 to get this done. The MultiAir unit also has an integral air filter which should be changed every 12 months or 12,000 miles; new ones are around £40.

As you'd expect, day-to-day running costs are pretty palatable thanks to the small-capacity engine. You can expect to get around 35mpg in everyday use, 40mpg on longer runs, while CO2 emissions of 162g/km for the Grande Punto and 142g/km for the Punto Evo mean road tax is reasonable. The Grande Punto sits in insurance group 30, the Supersport group 28 and the Punto Evo group 32.

PRICES

It's thought that around 800 Abarth Puntos of all types were sold in the UK. If you can find an early Grande Punto that's done close to 100,000 miles you might snap it up for around £4000, but most of these cars are priced at £5000 or more, even if they've done over 70,000 miles. Most of the earliest cars are painted red, with black the next most common hue. White is by far the rarest colour, which is odd considering all of the launch cars were available only in this colour.

It's a slightly different story with the Punto Evo as

-117-0

Abarth Punto is robust in service. Evo bodykits can become unstuck; check for cracked springs, too



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

132mph

7.9sec

ABARTH PUNTO EVO

NGINE: POWER: TORQUE: TRANSMISSION: WFIGHT. MAX SPEED: o-62MPH:

1368cc four-cylinder 163hp at 5500rpm 184lb ft at 2250rpm 6-speed manual 1185kg

1368cc, four-cylinder 180hp at 5750rpm 199b ft at 2500rpm 6-speed manual

1185kg

137mph

7.5sec

SS/S'SPORT/SCORPIONE

Andy Heywood's stunning black Abarth Scorpione,

perhaps the ultimate spec?

The Abarth UK essessse together with its Abarth crate!





Campovolo grey and black Abarth Punto Evos on track

Abarth Grande Punto in action at Harewood Hillclimb on the UK launch



badges on the tailgate and engine cover, have a certificate of authenticity or a stamp in the service book to say when the kit was fitted, and should sit on 18-inch alloys if it's had the chassis upgrades. Expect to pay a premium of around £1000 for a Punto with a full esseesse kit.

Many thanks to Nick Todisco, Steve Miller and Lance Litherland for their help. For more information. check out abarthpunto.co.uk or 'The Abarth Punto Collective' on Facebook



most of the cars for sale are either black or grey; there are also red and white examples, but they're less common. Few of these later cars are priced at much under £7000, with many closer to £10,000; the newest and lowest-mileage examples still have asking prices of up to £12,000 attached. Most of the more costly cars on the market are Supersport editions, which accounted for around half of the Punto Evos that we found for sale. If your budget will stretch to 12 large ones you can buy one of the ultra-rare Scorpione editions; of the 10 right-hand drive cars built, nine are left and we found two for sale (at £11,995 and £12,250), the latter with under 13,000 miles on the clock.

It's worth looking at what extras are fitted as some of these are very sought-after; the Scorpione wasn't available with any options. Any car with an essesse kit is likely to be sold as such, but bear in mind that because these weren't factory-fitted kits the registration document will list such cars only as standard Puntos. Sometimes standard cars are sold as esseesse editions because of a lack of knowledge. The real deal will be fitted with esseesse

TYPICAL PRICES:

Grande Punto, 2009, 64,000 miles, black, £5450 Punto Evo, 2010, 69,000 miles, black, £5475 Punto Evo 2011 esseesse, 40,000 miles white £7495 Punto Evo Supersport, 2014, 42,000 miles, white, £9990 Punto Evo Scorpione, 2013, 13,000 miles, black, £12,250



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TALIAN CAR



1991 Alfa Romeo Spider S4 2.0. 110,000kms, black. A stunning example, imported from Germany in 1997, and coverted to RHD. Full German service history stamped in book, lots of invoices of work done in UK, stored under cover over the winter by previous owners and myself. Under body treated with rust protection, recent oil filters and plugs change, recent upgraded alloys and brake calipers. Roof in excellent condition which also comes with tan roof tonneau, new matching windshield and Nardi steering wheel, which look stunning together. Stainless steel exhaust from the cat back which gives a lovely tone. Bodywork is excellent with some light scratches and marks, with no rust. Seats have a few marks with no spilts etc. MOT July 2018, all UK MOTs to verify mileage, an excellent investment, AROC member, £10,250. Tel: 07791 509613. A267/015



Alfetta. 94,720 miles, this Alfetta is the early very rare chrome bumper version, genuine RHD car now classed as historic so no longer needs taxing. Bodywork good, interior excellent, a delight to drive, is quicker than the GTV Juniors which now sell for around £20,000+, MOT to June 2018, extensive work recently done, all with receipts, brakes refurbished, calipers, pipes, discs, pads etc, all new. The car has had a new brake cable fitted, new exhaust fitted, new prop shaft coupling on all cylinders, new front tyres and front and rear Koni shock absorbers, has original wheels and also spare set of four wheels and two tyres and spare gearbox included in price. Gearbox stripped and inspected, condition excellent, plus other jobs to improve handling, car was resprayed completely in 2004 costing £2500. Comes with history file of work done, I believe I am third owner of car. it was owned by one person from 1978 until I bought it in 2014, it was in storage from 2007 to 2014. Last MOT had advisory regarding rust in front wing which has now been repaired with Zeibart undercoating. The engine bay has also been coated with Zeibart for extra protection, £8495. Email: richarddcruzemail@gmail.com. A267/028



1977 Alfa Romeo 105 Spider. 109,000 miles, black. MOT to Feb 2019. Owned by me since 1983, mechanically good for age as fully maintained by classic Alfa specialists, including Alfa Workshop for last 5 years, whole history available. Bodywork could use TLC, car is garaged near Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Offers over £7500 to Hugh. Email:

hs@altaberkeley.com. A267/014



1970 Alfa Romeo 1750 GTV. LHD, chassis no AR 1378476. Blue with black interior, period radio, same ownership for 30 years, mileage on original engine 68,121 miles. It now sports 4 lovely BWA rims with Hankook tyres, recently I fitted 4 new springs, 4 new adjustable shock absorbers and new servo plus reconditioned brake calipers and discs, radiator, alternator and starter motor. Always garaged. Excellent bodywork including chrome, £16,450. Tel: 01823 662174. Email: flmacri@aol.com. A267/016



Alfa Romeo 75 3.0 V6. F-reg (89), excellent body and interior, runs but is sold as a garage find as it will need a lot of work underneath. Electrics are good and doesn't need any welding but has stood for years, £3250 ono. Please call me for details: 07778 448954. Email: omaraljanabi@yahoo.co.uk (Newcastle upon Tyne). A267/027

1983 Alfa Romeo Alfetta GTV 6. Red, very, very good overall condition, present owner for the past 30+ years. Acquired from, and maintained as required by, Lyles of Newcastle, bodywork cared for by Corbridge Coachworks in Northumberland. Full paper history, current AROC insurance valuation £10,000, offers/enquiries from Chris. Tel: 01670 856163. Email: jayceepen@yahoo.co.uk. A267/017



Alfa Romeo 147. 1600cc, petrol (Facelift), Sept 2005 (55), 74,660 miles, 6 Alfa services, cambelt kit 56,900, MOT Oct, 2 keys, HPI clear, Jet Black, always garaged, £995. Tel: 07522 312236 any time (Somerset). A267/008



2003 Alfa Romeo 156 GTA 3.2 V6. 73,000 miles, red, sunroof. Taxed until June, MOT until August. Standard wheels with spare set of SCDETTO wheels (as seen in photo). Great car but cambelt has broken so car is immobile, engine probably needs rebuild so price negotiated to allow for that and some bodywork, buyer to collect. Tel: 01454 311488 (Bristol). A267/022



2001 Alfa Romeo 146 Tourismo Internazionale. 114,000 miles, red. Registered by Autoworld Alfa Romeo Chesterfield and supplied to 1 private owner, complete with full documented service history. Original car with all owner manuals, 3 keys and original sales invoice, June 2018 MOT. Fitted with 5 speed manual and 2.0 TS engine, car is amongst the last few Alfa 146TI registered and becoming increasingly rare, AROC member reducing collection, £1595. Email:

redalfaromeo146ti@gmail.com (Chesterfield). A267/018



Alfa Romeo 147 GTA. May 2005, black leather interior, genuine 63K miles, MOT to Feb 2019. Owned for last 9 years, service history and maintenance bills. Q2, Scorpion stainless steel exhaust, 18" alloys, 4 new tyres, timing belt kit done at 60K miles, one to keep, £10,995 ono, for more information please phone Alex on 07746 508604. A267/004



2012 Alfa Romeo 159 1750 tbi Lusso. c34,000 miles, last of the line low mileage 159 1750 Tbi Lusso, former Registrar's well cared for car in Alfa Red with dark grey leather. Regularly serviced by trusted Alfa specialist, new cambelt last year, MOT to January 2019, alloys just have a couple of minor kerbing damage, fairly new tyres on the front, rears will do another 5K or so, bonnet needs de-chipping. New brake discs and pads all round, £7750 ono. Email: hughalex@talktalk.net. A267/029

CLASSIFIED



2003 Alfa Romeo 156 GTA Sportwagon. 84,500 miles, red with black and grey leather interior, factory sunroof, Alfa Romeo service history. Cambelt, water pump, head gaskets, 6 spark plugs, radiator and coils all replaced last summer at 83,600 miles by my local Alfa dealership. Harvey Bailey suspension kit (HBE front and rear shock absorbers) and CDA air box, Q2 system, 330mm front discs, Supersprint stainless steel centre section and rear box. Parrot hands free phone, rear parking sensors. This lovely car has been in my ownership since 2005, but only 1200 miles covered in the past year does not justify keeping it, new MOT, garaged, £10,450. Tel: lan, 07759 696378. A267/021



1996 Alfa Romeo 155 Twin Spark 1.8. 126,000 miles, red, not cambelt, chain, cloth interior, MOT Oct 2017, £3500. Email: babsymalone@hotmail.com. A267/030



Alfa Romeo GT Blackline. Diesel, 1.9. FSH, black leather, MOT June, 175,000 miles, new air con condenser and pads all round, new timing belt and water pump last year. Tel: 07570 550404 (Derby). A267/013

2008 Alfa Romeo 159 2.4 Ti Q4

Sportwagon. 105,000 miles, red, service history, recent front suspension rebuild incl tyres, injectors replaced etc, rear exhaust, £5000 ono. Tel: 07703 357307 (Wiltshire). A267/012

Alfa Romeo GT 3.2 V6. 2005, red. Good condition inside and out, work carried out since October 2015, 93,000 miles now 96,000, wheel alignment, 2x new tyres, battery, 2017 replacement timing belt, auxiliary drive belt, anti roll bar bushes, new brake disc and pads all round. MOT 29 08 2017, tax October 2017. Payment on collection from Reading or Marlow if easier, £4250. Tel: Peter, 07880 550860. A267/033



2004 Alfa Romeo GT 3.2 V6. 88,516 miles, silver, tan leather, good condition, major service 2017 (cambelt, water pump, air con compressor, 3 new tyres). New battery, sports exhaust, Quaife limited slip diff, mapped. Good history including engine rebuild (2012), 18" alloys, parking sensors, sat nav, CD, heated seats. Everything works, key codes supplied, MOT to Jan 2019. Enthusiast-owned (6th Alfa), selling due to recent arrival of Giulia QF, £6750. Tel: Robin Haynes, orgog 976121. Email: robin.haynes@ntlworld.com. A267/031



1996 Alfa Romeo 916 GTV TS Lusso. 111,000 miles, blue, MOT 05.12.18, large history file, cambelt tensioners December 2014, 102,000 miles. Recent new Varta battery and exhaust, front downpipe. Dunlop tyres, black leather interior, drives very well, £850, call for details. Tel: 07854 932595 (Orpington area). A267/032



2000 Alfa Romeo GTV 916 2 litre Twinspark. 74,000 miles, black, an excellent example of this iconic fourseater coupe. Drilled and grooved discs fitted 4000 miles ago, part stainless steel exhaust system, recent alternator and battery replacement, Sony Bluetooth digital radio (original radio available if required). Drives nicely, new motorhome coming so must sadly go, £1849 ovno. Tel: Neil, 07713 880678 (Dundee). A267/020





Alfa Romeo 916 Spider TS 1997. 86,000 miles, MOT Sept 2018, black leather interior. Totally original specification, but with many new parts. Recent timing belts and water pump, new discs and recon calipers, refurbished wheels, with new Bridgestones. Also new radiator, thermostat, battery, electric aerial, and new hood rear window section, aftermarket wind deflector. Comprehensive service history, further details and photos on request, £2300 ono. Tel: 07729 614261 (Northumberland). A267/011



2000 Alfa Romeo 916 GTV P2 3.2. Unique P2 3.2 GTV, definitely one of the very best 916 GTVs around. Superb condition after a 'better than new £4500 respray in its original Nuvola Blue by Surface & Design TVR in 2010, another £4000 to remove new stone chips and restore the underside in 2015. Improved and repaired regardless of cost, incredible history file showing in excess of £20K spent in my ownership since I purchased in 2006. New (not rebuilt) 3.2 engine fitted and done only 17K since. Too much work to list, but briefly: full Alfaholics exhaust inc manifold, recon gearbox, Bilstein shocks all round, Powerflex rear, Alfaholics brakes, Q2 diff, short shifter, BMC CDA airbox, GTA clutch and flywheel, quality DAB/CD head unit and roof aerial fitted with the bodywork. All glass has been replaced with Alfa branded including the ultra rare rear screen and rear quarters, pristine proper GTV monogrammed mats, door rubber seals changed for new last year, pristine detailed engine bay, most lights changed for new, badges and grille replaced with new, recent recon gearbox, original alloys were changed for new instead of refurbing, all work documented mostly done by renowned specialists Peak Alfa. >£1500 spent in last 6 months alone on refurbing cooling system inc new radiator, oil cooler and pipework, plus more work on the brakes and handbrake, £10,000. Please call John for a chat or to view on 07764 940286. Email: jccarr@protonmail.com. A267/019

Classifieds are free! Just email your text and photograph to liz.solo@ntlworld.com



Alfa Romeo Spider 2010 (10) 1750 TBI. White/black leather, 33,000 miles, FARSH. Pampered car in wonderful condition, fabulous example of a really rare car with the best engine ever offered in a Spider (and I've owned all!). One of only 33 in the UK, serviced annually, 12 months' MOT. Unmarked 18" anthracite 5 hole wheels, good Pirelli tyres, recent new discs and pads, new cambelt and water pump at 20,000 miles 2 years ago. New battery, straight through stainless steel rear pipes (originals to be included), sounds amazing without being intrusive, last spec including hill hold, parking sensors, red calipers, £12,500 ono. Tel: 07592 738490. Email:

aaholland@hotmail.co.uk. A267/042



2009 Alfa Romeo Brera Prodrive 3.2 V6S. 44,200 miles, red, 1 of only 250 V6s. Lovingly looked after, full service history, MOT till July, £13,950. Tel: Joseph. 07985 152923. A267/023



2010 (10) Alfa Romeo Brera 1750tbi. Red with black leather. One of only 62 RHD with this engine, the only one to have, 210bhp turbo, 6 speed manual, petrol, 59,500 miles since new, MOT Nov 2018, 2 owners, FSH, extras include Graphite Prodrive wheels 18" with Pirelli tyres, full length black panoramic roof giving light interior, Ascari tuning exhaust system, subtle not raucous. New battery, spare key. AROC member, cherished car, garaged all winter, only 1000 miles covered in last year, ready for the show season or for a European motoring holiday! £10,995 priced to sell, located near Dover. Text: Phil on 07772 785927, Email: philjames1970@outlook.com (Kent).

A267/009

FERRARI



Ferrari F355 Spider in Rosso Corsa with Nero hide. Owned by FOC member for 6 +years, reluctant sale! Stunning example with 41,000 miles. Excellent service history, will be serviced and MOT'd prior to collection, all keys, tools, manuals and wallet, plus battery conditioner and car cover are included, many optional extras. Original exhaust plus Level 1 Capristo included if asking price of £84,950 is met, private plate available under separate negotiation. Tel: Phil, 07952 851489 (Bucks). A267/043

Ferrari 612 Scaglietti One to One. One of 17 RHD cars supplied to the UK, black nero with crema Daytona seats piped black, black calipers. September 2008, Manettino, 16,500 miles, majority main dealer servicing with Ferrari/ Maserati specialist (Autoshield Manchester) last two years. Major service including belts carried out July 2017 so everything up to date, £129,995 ono, will send photos on request. Tel: Charles, 07919 046630. A267/034

Ferrari 456 Manual. Great condition and presented with outstanding maintenance and FSH, having 20 stamps in the service book, last one being Foskers when it had new belts etc, and new set of Bridgestones all round, comes with extensive file of invoices and old MOT certificates. Five registered keepers on the logbook and a genuine low mileage of only 38,790 miles from new. Only selling as now have a 355 Spider so not really the room for this one, manual is the one to have and this one is immaculate. Email:

ajcleeds@gmail.com. A267/035 Ferrari 360 Modena. 2000, 29K miles, Rosso Corsa, immaculate, £82k ovno. Tel: 07803 260417 (Glasgow). A267/036 Ferrari 458 Italia. Selling my low mileage red 458 Italia, 5400 miles only, stunning spec and immaculate condition throughout, £165,000. Email: dean@ reliableelevatorservices.co.uk. A267/037

FIAT



Fiat 130 Coupe. Rare manual ZF gearbox model, one of just goo hand built by Pininfarina at their Cambiano facility from the total production of 4491 cars. Original Bianco paint, and orange velour interior. Paint is excellent, the interior is good with the exception of the front seats which show some wear and would benefit from some attention (I have been quoted £600 to repair both front seats). Vehicle is showing an indicated 35,000km from new with 2 Italian and 2 UK owners, this mileage has been verified by the 2nd owner who kept the car for over 30 years. Full 12 months' MOT (will be MOT exempt in May 2018), and registered as Historic Vehicle, so road fund licence is free. These cars, especially the rare ZF manual versions, are being talked up by journalists such as Quentin Willson, who feel that they will increase in value rapidly in the future. A comfortable and sure footed mile eater that looks great and should handsomely repay your investment, £10,950 or offers, would part exchange anything, ancient or modern, cash either way. Tel: 07831 290806. Email: brian1boxall@btinternet.com. A267/005



Fiat Seicento Sporting 1.1 MPI. 2003. Little use and only covered 13K miles! Not far off a new car, can only increase in value. Silver with grey and black trim, sunroof, alloys, power steering, overmats and full size spare. Had belt, exhaust and tyres, service history, tested, £1595. Tel: 01684 892906 (Malvern, Worcs). A267/025



86 auto italia

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L U ECIALIST SERVICES



Dynamic. MOT December 2018, full electric pack with rear parking sensors and auto tilt nearside mirror, full leather in blue and black, black Abarth 17-inch rims, F50 style vented bonnet (lacquer peeling), 40mm drop on suspension, twin rear exhaust, dark tint rear windows, rear hatch spoiler. Has airbag light on and engine light on (but runs spot on), told by auto electrician engine light is rear exhaust Lambda sensor (new one in boot), other is just connectors as it was stood for 2 years previously. 98,500 miles on clock at mo but will rise as is in constant use at the moment and it runs faultless. Not many of these about, be different, £1250 ovno. Email: immonoman@aol.co.uk. A267/044



Fiat Seicento. Michael Schumacher 1.1, April 2002, 02 plate, 66,000 genuine miles, MOT November, service 200 miles ago, always garaged, £795. Tel: 07526 950474 (Somerset). A267/045

LANCIA

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Lancia Gamma Coupe 2000. Pininfarina design, stunning and rare, August 1982. 2 owners, kept in a garage but ready to go! The car has recently been serviced, £5200, please contact me for more information. Email:

josephmsu@gmail.com. A267/001

MASERATI



1981 Maserati Merak SS RHD. Reluctant sale, very original and maintained, MOT until 3 August 2018, current mileage 81,859km. Engine rebuilt in 2009 at 79,478km, I've owned the car since August 2003 and since then virtually all of the mechanical aspects of the car have been done, including hydraulics and brakes by Bill McGrath and engine by B.L. Autos, I have a huge file detailing all the work done on the car since I have had it. I also have an original space saver spare wheel and tyre and the original jack is still in the car. If I was not selling the car, then I would have had the bodywork restored and, possibly got the air conditioning working. It has been an extremely reliable car in the time that I have owned it and it has not broken down once. I am happy to send more photos or discuss further on the phone. I'm looking for realistic offers, I am aware that there is nothing as 'new' or original as this currently on the market and the prices being asked for these. Please feel free to call or email. Tel: Yil, 07860 234234. Email: yil@akyuz.me.uk. A267/048



2006 Maserati Quattroporte V Duo Select. This stunning Verde Goodwood QP has covered just 27K with two owners, known to me for the last four years, when just 1000 miles have been done. Full spec inc sunroof, full history, all up to date campaigns, just serviced by PK Supercars, full health check done, with the quote "it's the best 2006 QP we have seen", early 2006 car so cheaper tax bracket too, over mats fitted, rear blind, all the goodies, £17,000. Tel: Rob Jenner, 07747 130139. Email:

rob@exclusively-jaguar.co.uk. A267/046



2006 Maserati Quattroporte V 4200 petrol Executive GT. A beautiful

comfortable car with sports appeal, high spec, registered January 2006, less than 35,000 miles. The bodywork and interior are in immaculate condition, fully serviced in October 2012 at Autoshield Maserati and again in December 2015 at JCT600 in Leeds. Interim service in May 2017 at Autoshield with new discs and pads fitted all round, new battery fitted in July 2016, MOT valid until 3 September 2018. The car has covered less than 10,400 miles during my five years of ownership, being restricted as far as possible to fine weather trips Bosch satellite navigation, CD map of UK and Ireland included. Additional features from the extensive specification: Duo Select Cambiocorsa six speed gearchange (giving the choice of 'automatic' or 'manual'), switching for sport/normal mode, radio and 5 CD autochanger, SIM slot for onboard mobile phone, trip computer, headlamp washers, cruise control, heightadjustable front seatbelts, front and rear parking sensors, extra entertainment and car controls mounted on front and rear of steering wheel, heated seats front and back, rear privacy screen, additional control panel mounted in the back, rear centre seat, 12v power socket, pen and phone tray etc. Two wood-finish lockable, fold-down picnic tables mounted on the back of the front seats with additional pullout surface, security tracking facility available via Vodaphone/Cobra. Three driver's seat memory settings, all seats electronically adjustable, independent driver/passenger climate control, space saver spare wheel, jack, wheelbrace, locking wheel bolts (4), soft-touch external door opening. Automatically dimming rear view mirror, electrically adjustable external mirrors, adjustable steering wheel, front and rear fog lights, electrically operated glass sunroof with manual sunshade/blind, drink chiller in central console, two keys will be supplied with the car. Private plate will not be included in the sale, currently owned by club member, £20,000. Tel: Sean, 01759 304050. Email: seanmuirhead@hotmail.com (East Yorkshire). A267/038



1999 Maserati QP IV Evo. Increasingly rare and in wonderful condition, the car is well known and respected in Maserati circles having been owned by wellknown club members. I've been a member since the mid-gos, and of the six models I have subsequently owned, this ranks as the best example. The engine is a developed version of that which powered the Shamal, and later put into the 3200, undoubtedly the finest engine of that era. The body carries the trademark Gandini rear slashes, the car has been fastidiously maintained by Ftech and is a splendid example of an increasingly rare model, £12,350. Tel: 01395 222311. Email: golfswjon@gmail.com. A267/049



1983 Maserati Kyalami RHD 4.9 Auto. Full history, 2 previous owners, both club members. 50K miles, RHD 4.9cc auto. Just had full glass out body restoration and interior trim, £75,000. Tel: 01233 840371. Email: jim@deringarms.com. A267/047



2008 Maserati GranTurismo. Mav 2008, 1 owner car in beautiful colour combination with low mileage. My beautiful 2008 GranTurismo that I bought new in Granito Grigio with Rosso leather is stunning with refurbished wheels and red calipers. Only 38K miles and looked after by Maranello. It has all usual extras, incl heated and memory seats, skyhook suspension, front p/sensors, 20" birdcage wheels, both master keys etc, and is in superb condition. Tel: 020 8950 1236. Email: nickfp@hotmail.com. A267/053

PARTS



Ferrari left hand drive headlights. Only used for couple of months. 599 GTB headlights, LHD, 599 163539, £2750. Tel: 07768 028400. A267/052

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Fiat Coupe 20V Turbo petrol tank, complete, electric pump, for sale £100. Tel: 07935 830055. Email: arturobrogna@ yahoo.co.uk (Dyfed). A267/050 Lancia Flavia Vignale steel hardtop in silver grey. Offers around £2000. Tel: 07798 797262. Email: martinbuckley130@gmail.com. A267/039

Maserati OME Ghibli wheels and tyres. As almost new, they were taken off my Maserati Ghibli last year having covered around 3000 miles, the wheels are very close to new and tyres are Pirelli P Zero 235/50ZR/18 (101Y) and are very good with plenty of tread, there is a slight cut on one of them. Tel: Peter, 07968 355985. Email:

petertimotheou@aol.com. A267/040

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Flavia Vignale hardtop. Beautifully painted in Newmarket Grey complete with rear window but requires trim/locking mechanism parts fitting and the headlining replacing, although the original one is complete with rods for a trimmer to copy. It comes with a stand and a cover and if I can get £2000 for it I will probably even deliver it if you don't live more than a couple of hours away. Tel: 07798 797262. Email: martinbuckley130@btinternet.com. A267/006

Spares: Fiat 1500 cabriolet.

Variety of used parts including distributor, starter motor, rhd steering box and many other smaller items, offers. Tel: 01684 892906. A267/024

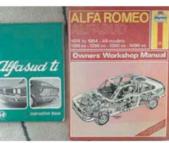
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Hand made 3D Bertone emblem wall art, measuring 640mm high x 350mm wide, mostly wood construction with the exception of the word Bertone and the metal background beneath the B. Special mottle effect paint finish to the top half of the emblem, £110.00 plus p&p. This famous coachbuilder bodied cars for many well known brands including Ferrari, Fiat and Lamborghini to name but a few, phone for further details. Tel: 07564 637636. A267/003



Ferrari World magazine collection. UK issues 1 to 37 in two official Ferrari slip cases. Also included are Italian edition issue 1, German issues 6 to 10 and issues 12, 29, 52 and 53. Good condition, £150 plus postage or collect in person. Tel: Phil Ward, 07078 563657. A267/007



Alfasud Ti handbook, pub 1977; Haynes workshop manual 1974 to 1984, all models, £3.50 each. Tel: 07399 359072. A267/002



BARC, BRSCC. British Automobile Racing Club and British Racing & Sports Car Club badge, £70 pair, post free. Tel: 020 8399 7541 (Surrey). A267/051



FOC enamel badges. Bugatti Owners Club/FOC enamel badges, 1973-4-5-6. Absolutely as new, never worn, ex FOC member, £55 incl P&P in UK. Tel: 01275 332459. A267/054

WANTED

Wanted cars: Espada S3 (prefer Euro LHD), also S1 type wheels and kit, swap 4 Merc 1988 Estate 230TE, 69,000 miles only, very clean, many new parts inc autobox, tyres, brakes, batt, exhaust comp etc, 5 alloy wheels, towbar, roof rack, CD stereo, tax and test. Plus new Snap-On tools and collection, and/or pro camera items and collection. Tel: 01277 200530. Email: dcian@fastemail.us. A267/010

Wanted: Maserati 3500GT front seats needed. Does anyone have a pair of

later front seats for a 3500GT? I have a pair of earlier ones to swap if this helps. Tel: Keith Hudson, 01162 788739. Email: hudfish@gmail.com (Leicester). A267/041



Wanted: for Lancia Dedra automatic. Automatic gear selector T-handle with push button and gate (RHD), or information to assist in acquiring such, new or used. Also for sale cheaply good bodyshell for manual Dedra with some parts removed available soon. Tel: 01684 892906. A267/026



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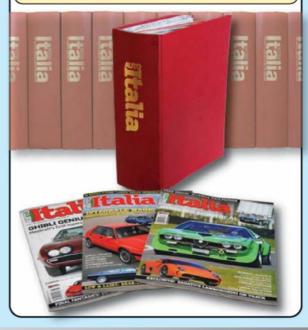
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OBSCURATI CURIOSITIES FROM THE AMAZING WORLD OF ITALIAN CARS

PININFARINA RONDINE

TOM TJAARDA'S ELEGANT CORVETTE-BASED COUPE WOULD BECOME THE TEMPLATE FOR THE FIAT 124 SPIDER

Story by Richard Heseltine

t's a car that continues to polarise opinion. The Rondine – pronounced *ron-din-ay* and meaning 'sparrow' – was a design concept produced by Pininfarina for the 1963 Paris Motor Show which couldn't have looked further removed from the car on which it was based – the Chevrolet Corvette C2. While not conceived with mass manufacture in mind, it eventually spawned a mainstream production car; it's just that it wasn't American.

Who, precisely, conceived the car is lost in the midst of time, but the man responsible for shaping this bold coupe was the late, great Tom Tjaarda. The Michigan-born émigré produced a dramatic outline with a long rear overhang, the dramatically-raked roofline initially comprising an inward slanting rear window with the roof 'chopped' behind the B-pillar. It appeared with this controversial styling treatment when unveiled in Paris, but was subsequently reworked with a more conventional-looking wraparound rear glasshouse.

As to who actually bodied the car in steel, this too is mired in conflicting reports and conjecture. It is widely assumed that Pininfarina built the car internally, but some company insiders from the period insist it was actually shaped by Ferrari's chosen metal-basher, Sergio Scaglietti. This famous artisan had form when it came to reworking Corvettes, having hitherto bodied a small run of C1generation cars at the end of the previous decade for a group of dealer-racers that included Carroll Shelby and Jim Hall.

The Rondine was, for the most part, met with muted praise by the motoring media following its big reveal. One US publication recently cited a quote attributed to Zora Arkus-Duntov, the father of the Corvette, in which he reputedly said in period: "For the first time, I can have a Corvette to be proud to drive in Europe." This has the whiff of the apocryphal about it, not least because the 1963 Sting Ray was well received in Europe, if only for its straight-line performance and dramatic outline.

The Rondine's days on the show circuit were, however, somewhat brief. Punters weren't clamouring for replicas, but it did inspire a local manufacturer to produce its own take on the theme – Fiat. The Turin giant tasked Tjaarda and Pininfarina,

with reworking some of the Rondine's styling cues, to create the Fiat 124 Spider. The job was made that much more difficult by the trifling matter of there being a much smaller canvas to work with.

Tjaarda recalled in 2011: "Fiat's bosses had seen the car in Paris. They wanted a scaled-down copy but the proportions were completely different. I did my best to make it work but it wasn't easy. I didn't see the completed car [124 Spider] until the 1966 Turin Salon as I'd returned to Ghia by then, but it pretty faithful to my renderings."

was

As for the one and only Rondine, it was seen only sporadically over the next four decades. It lived in Pininfarina's factory collection until January 2008 when it was sold at a Barrett-Jackson auction in Scottsdale for a whopping \$1.6 million excluding commission and taxes. It has since become a regular at high-brow shows such as the Villa d'Este and Pebble Beach concours events.







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