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*No.1 out of 48 service dealers in Alfa Romeo's customer satisfaction survey, carried out by JD Power, May - June '11
*No.1 out of 63 service dealers in Alfa Romeo's customer satisfaction survey, carried out by JD Power, Jan - Mar 08



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WELCOME

Gary Axon



lfa Romeo has, I'm delighted to say, done it again – it's created a pukka world-beater. Having just driven the new Stelvio Quadrifoglio, I have little hesitation in proclaiming it the world's best medium-sized SUV.

The Stelvio QV's most extraordinary achievement is to banish - well, all but banish - the inherent prejudices I've long harboured against the SUV genre: the top-heavy stance, rolypoly handling, overbearing design ethos and sheer bulk.

That's because the QV is not only blisteringly quick but also more agile than any other SUV, full stop. In other words, it's a proper Alfa. You can read exactly why I think it's such a triumph on page 18.

We were also in Milan for the announcement of the other major Alfa news story this month: the biscione logo will be appearing in Formula 1 in 2018 - potentially very exciting. I guess time will tell whether the investment required is going to be worthwhile for Alfa. I'd be fascinated to hear your thoughts.

All Alfa needs now is to sprinkle the magic it's generating - with its Quadrifoglio models and F1 aspirations - across the whole road car range. Marchionne's comments at the Alfa F1 launch certainly seem to suggest that's his intention. I for one would be delighted to see a refreshed 4C, a new 8C and a Giulia Coupe, as well as some excitement lower down the range. If that happens, this could be the turning point for the one brand that every Italian car lover really wants to see succeed.

One last word from me about the Lamborghini Urus, which has been unveiled this month (see page 30). To say the design is bold is an understatement; it's positively brazen. On one level, what else do you expect of Lamborghini? But on another, does it really look like a Lamborghini? There's been a fair bit of criticism of its design since the unveiling. I'd just comment that one factor rarely considered by European design critics is the real market for cars like this: China and the US, where tastes are often very different.

chrisrees@auto-italia.net





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Official fuel consumption figures for the Abarth 695 XSR Yamaha Limited Edition: mpg (I/100km): Combined 47.1 (6.0), Urban 35.8 (7.9), Extra urban 57.7 (4.9), CO₂ Emissions: 139 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption. Abarth UK is a trading style of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles UK Ltd.

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FEBRUARY 2018















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Alfa in F1, a new Pantera & Dallara's Stradale

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Tom Tjaarda's Damaca buggy





NEWS & VIEWS

Alfa Returns to F1

ALFA ROMEO IS COMING BACK TO FORMULA 1 AFTER AN ABSENCE OF OVER 30 YEARS



Ifa Romeo has partnered up with the Swiss Sauber team in a multiyear deal beginning with the 2018 season. Alfa will become title sponsor and the official team name will be Alfa Romeo Sauber F1 Team.

The agreement covers strategic, commercial and technological cooperation, including "access to engineering know-how and the expertise of Alfa Romeo technical staff," says the company.

At an elaborate launch event inside Alfa Romeo's renovated Museo Storico near Milan, Alfa Romeo unveiled its new livery and logo for its 2018 F1 car as well as the team's two drivers, Marcus Ericsson and Charles Leclerc.

Adding weight to the occasion were FIA president Jean Todt and Chase Carey, the F1

chief of Liberty Media which controls F1. Also present was Sauber chief Pascal Picci. All spoke enthusiastically on stage about Alfa Romeo's return to F1 next year.

Alfa's F1 cars will use full-spec 2018 Ferrari power units and the launch sees Ferrari considerably increase its influence in F1.

Alfa Romeo suggests that the F1 experience will provide opportunities for its general road car business, too. There has already been a suggestion that the 4C road car, for instance, will see significant development in 2018 to take advantage of the F1 profile, while rumours persist of an Alfa 8C-type supercar.

Sergio Marchionne, CEO of FCA, said: "This agreement with the Sauber F1 Team is a significant step in the reshaping of the Alfa

Romeo brand. Alfa Romeo fans will once again have the opportunity to support an automaker that is determined to begin writing an exciting new chapter in its unique, legendary sporting history."

He added: "Alfa's return to F1 is putting the brand back where it used to be. It will also give Ferrari a real competitor."

In the press conference, Marchionne admitted that FCA was making a financial contribution but declined to name a figure and also denied that the move marked the start of a take-over of the team, which remains Swiss-based.

Alfa has a strong motorsport pedigree and a long history in Formula 1, competing from 1950 to 1988, both as a constructor and latterly as an engine supplier.



Its glory years were undoubtedly the early days when Alfa Romeo won the first two drivers' world championships, in 1950 and 1951, with Nino Farina and Juan Manuel Fangio.

Thereafter, Alfa Romeo was an engine supplier to several F1 teams, including March and Brabham. Notably, Brabham used Alfa power for the legendary BT46 'fan car' from 1978 which started and won its only race.

Alfa Romeo returned as a constructor in 1979, achieving its best result in 1983, when it took sixth place in the constructors' championship. – *Peter Nunn*



SCHUMACHER'S F1 CAR SELLS

Michael Schumacher's 2001 world championship-winning Ferrari F1 car has sold for a record \$7,505,000 at a contemporary art auction in New York.

The Ferrari F2001, chassis 211, is the car in which Schumacher clinched the 2001 world title, his fourth, in the Hungarian Grand Prix. It is also the car that Schumacher raced in Monaco for the fifth and final time.

The 2001 car easily won the drivers' and constructors' titles that year, with Schumacher taking nine GP victories. It even continued into the 2002 season, taking victory in Australia and pole in Malaysia.

The sale – to a private collector by RM Sotheby's – was a record price for a modern Formula 1 car. A portion of proceeds from the sale have been donated to Michael Schumacher's Keep Fighting Foundation.



LAMBORGHINI URUS TO COST £157,800

Lamborghini has unveiled its new Urus SUV, which is now on sale across global markets.

The Urus is powered by a 4.0-litre V8 twin-turbo engine, the first ever turbocharged engine in a Lamborghini. It delivers peak power of 650hp at 6000rpm and 627lb ft (850Nm) of torque at 2250rpm. Transmission is by an eight-speed automatic gearbox.

Lamborghini claims this is the world's fastest SUV, with a 0-62mph acceleration time of 3.6 seconds and a top speed of 189mph.

4x4 is standard and there's an optional Off-Road Package. Chassis highlights include active torque vectoring, four-wheel steering, adaptive air





WINTER ALFA CHECK

Alfa Romeo is offering a winter driving essentials check. For a cost of £29.99, fluid levels, brakes, battery, wheels, tyres, suspension, steering and lights are all checked through Mopar, Alfa Romeo's official service partner.

Available at retailers nationwide, any necessary repairs or improvements identified in the check will be reported and any repairs approved will use genuine parts, with a two-year parts and labour warranty.

In addition, Alfa Romeo MiTo and Giulietta customers will benefit from one year's Roadside Assistance and complimentary Accident Support Service. To book a Mopar test, visit www.alfaromeo.co.uk/mopar



ALFA QUADRIFOGLIO DRIVING BOOTS

A new Alfa Romeo Quadrifoglio shoe design has been launched by Car Shoe. Inspired by classic lace-up racing boots, it's made of leather and technical fabric. The boot features an Alfa Romeo logo on the back and Alfa's four-leaf clover symbol on the Velcro on the ankle. The sole is designed to offer grip and sensitivity on the pedals when driving.

Priced at £430 per pair, the Quadrifoglio boot is available in black, red or blue and can be bought from Car Shoe's Milan or Rome stores, and at carshoe.com



PANDA MAKES A MILLION

The one millionth Fiat Panda has rolled off the production line at the Pomigliano d'Arco plant near Naples.

The millionth example of the third-generation Panda (originally launched in 2011) was a white Panda City Cross 1.2. It was delivered to a customer in Italy – where the Panda has been the number one best-selling car for five years in a row. It has also been the best-seller in Europe in its segment since 2016.

Over 7.5 million Pandas of all types have been made since the first generation was launched in 1980.



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its racing prowess and technical innovations.

Key exhibits include Enzo Ferrari's driving licence and an exact replica of the 125 S – the first Ferrari ever made. Original hand-drawn sketches feature next to wind tunnel models and early wooden master models.

Celebrity exhibits include material from Miles Davis, Clint Eastwood, Sammy Davis Jr, Brigitte Bardot and Peter Sellers. There's a 1957 250 GT Cabriolet owned by racing driver Peter Collins, Nick Mason's F40 and a 1950 166 MM driven by Gianni Agnelli, head of Fiat. Modern Ferraris include Gordon Ramsay's LaFerrari Aperta.

Competitive racing is represented by the 1952 500 F2 that Alberto Ascari drove to F1 victory in 1952 and 1953, and the championship-winning F1-2000 driven by Michael Schumacher. There are also helmets worn by Alberto Ascari, Mike Hawthorn, Michael Schumacher and Kimi Räikkönen, as well as trophies and racing suits.

Ferrari: Under the Skin runs at the Design Museum in London until 15 April 2018.

FERRARI: UNDER THE SKIN OPENS IN LONDON

A major Ferrari exhibition is now open at the Design Museum in London. Ferrari: Under the Skin explores the history and behind-the-scenes design of Ferrari, with £140 million worth of Ferraris featured.

Rarely seen material from private collections brings together early design models, drawings, personal letters and memorabilia. Dedicated displays explore the life of Enzo Ferrari, the design of the cars, its clientele,





FERRARI'S MUSEUM RECORDS

Visitors to Ferrari Museums reached record levels of more than 500,000 from January to November 2017, an increase of 12 per cent over the same period in 2016. That means Ferrari's museums are among the most visited in Italy.

The Museo Enzo Ferrari in Modena was particularly popular, with visitors drawn by the 'Driving with the Stars' exhibition of Ferraris owned and driven by celebrities.

The Ferrari Museum in Maranello also saw a marked increase in visitor numbers, bolstered by exhibitions such as 'Rosso Infinito' (which is still underway) and 'Under the Skin', which has now transferred to the Design Museum in London.



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- Model Registers for new and classic Alfa Romeos
- National events and exhibitions



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f you know the name Dallara, it's probably because the Italian race car constructor fielded a Formula 1 team in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Or, if you live in the USA, you may be familiar with Dallara Automobili as the constructor of current IndyCar chassis.

Less well known is the fact that Dallara has also enjoyed decades of collaboration with major car makers, including working on the Alfa Romeo 4C and KTM X-Bow. Now Dallara is branching out into road cars bearing its own name with the Stradale, built at its home of Varano de' Melegari near Parma. In fact, a new factory has been constructed for the purpose.

The 16 November 2017 launch date was not chosen randomly; this was Giampaolo Dallara's 81st birthday. What better gift for him than to see a sports car bearing his name become a production reality.

We were at the world premiere, rubbing shoulders with such luminaries as Horacio Pagani (builder of the

most exclusive of all Italian supercars); racing drivers like Alex Zanardi and Paolo Barilla; Giancarlo Reggiani, research manager at Lamborghini; Piero Ferrari, Drake's son; and many political figures, including Romano Prodi, Dallara's friend and former Prime Minister of the Italy.

Nor was this some speculative launch. The occasion marked the handover of the very first production cars to their owners, including Andrea Levi, chairman of the Turin Auto Show.

So what is the Dallara Stradale? It's a sports car focused on pure driving pleasure, conceived as a completely open barchetta but capable of being fitted with a windscreen, roof and doors if you want to use it in bad weather.

Dallara's key racing principles are all clearly present, such as wind tunnel-honed aerodynamics and a carbonfibre chassis (as per the Afa 4C and KTM X-Bow). Dallara himself says that Colin Chapman would have appreciated the Stradale, which is inspired by simplicity







of construction and lightness – indeed, it tips the scales at just 855kg.

Powering the Stradale is a four-cylinder, 2.3-litre turbocharged engine from Ford, modified by the Italian manufacturer to develop 400hp at 6200rpm, plus very strong torque of 36glb ft (500Nm) from 3000 to 5000rpm. The power unit is positioned centrally driving the rear wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox, or there's an optional 'robotic' paddle-shift system. The suspension consists of wishbones and adjustable electronic dampers.

The performance is impressive: 62mph is reached in 3.25 seconds, while the top speed is over 170mph. Other interesting data are the lateral acceleration (above 2g) and 820kg of aerodynamic load at the car's maximum speed (using an optional rear wing that transforms the Stradale into the perfect track day weapon).

The price of the base version is 155,000 euros

(excluding VAT). Dallara hopes to produce 600 units over the next six years. Enthusiasts of Italian cars across the world should be happy to welcome this latest sports car conceived in the Emilia-Romagna region, the 'Motor Valley' of the most prestigious Italian car manufacturers.







Stata eMAILBOX

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JUICED-UP GIULIETTA

Following on from your feature on my modified Alfa Romeo Giulietta (*Auto Italia* January 2018), I've added a few subtle mods.

These include green/black door shut

sill trims, new front bumper grille, dechromed trims around the side windows and LED lighting in the engine bay in customary green. I hope to take the car to various Alfa shows this year. Andy Couch







ZAGATO WITH ZING

Reading your Andrea
Zagato interview (Auto
Italia December 2017)
filled me with joy – clearly
a man who's passionate
about the legacy and
future of Zagato. And as
for the news that a new
Giulia TZ Coupe is on the



GAPS IN THE MARKET

It seems to me that now

to produce a new model

smaller in size than the

Twingo and Smart their

current 500 range.

Renault has the new

would be the time for Fiat

face to face

though, is the total number of designs that Zagato has been responsible for. You state that "134 designs were made in all" but according to the latest book I have on Zagato, the actual number is more like over 400. Keep up the good work! David Little



TwinAir in the back?

And whilst I'm in the mood, a new Ferrari Dino using the V6 engine from the Alfa Giulia? Gordon Heaton

We couldn't agree more. A smaller two-seater version of the Fiat 500, available as a city car and a sports car, would be heaven-sent. A bit like the (sadly never produced) Zagato 500 Coupe (pictured), perhaps? – Ed.

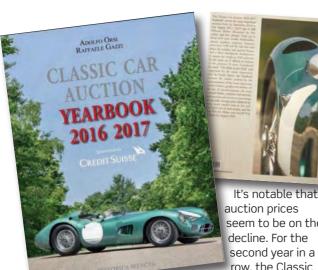
GAME GAMINE

Thought you might like to see a photo of my Vignale Gamine in its designated parking space in my local town centre car park. *Tim Milnes*



BOOKSHELF

REVIEWS OF THE LATEST TITLES



Classic Car Auction Yearbook 2016-2017 By Adolfo Orsi & Raffaele Gazzi **Historica Selecta ISBN:** 9788896232095 £70

If you want to know what happened at the big automotive auction sales around the world in 2016-2017, this book is where to go. Amazingly, this is the 22nd edition of the Classic Car Auction Yearbook. Sales from September 2016 to August 2017 are covered, equating to 5659 cars over 308 different marques. Chassis numbers are given and auction results are provided in three currencies (euros, dollars and sterling).

There's an impressive level of analysis by the Italian co-authors (Adolfo Orsi and Raffaele Gazzi), both of whom are authoritative figures. As well as detailed market analysis, there are many colour graphs, a listing of the Top 195 cars, the Top 100 by make and by country statistics, and a summary of the last 24 years of results.

auction prices seem to be on the decline. For the second year in a row, the Classic

Car Auction Yearbook records a downturn some \$1.086 billion in turnover - that's down from the historical high of 2014-2015, but still up by 32 per cent from 2012-2013. Orsi notes the increase of cars offered without reserve – a significant change of strategy designed to stimulate the market.

Over 416 pages, there are 954 photographs. For more information visit www.Classiccarauctionye arbook.com

Carrozzeria Allemano Torino By Giuliano Silli ASI ISBN: 9788898344512 32 euros

For many years, the story of Allemano has remained untold. It may feel like one of the more obscure Italian carrozzerie but its body of work is utterly fascinating.

Allemano collaborated almost exclusively with one of the greatest and most prolific designers of all time, Giovanni Michelotti. His designs stand out for their simplicity of line, elegance and an encapsulation of the spirit of Italy.

Allemano bodied hundreds of cars in a bewildering array of designs. Among its early efforts was a body on the Ferrari 166 S and an achingly pretty Nardi 750. Its more celebrated works include coupes on the Fiat 1100 TV, the stunning Maserati 5000 GT, the



ATS 2500 GT and pretty much every Abarth GT car of the early 1960s. There's also a chapter on work done for the Japanese car maker, Prince, which was pioneering activity for an Italian company in the land of the Rising Sun.

The text is in both Italian and English. It's a softback book with 200 pages and hundreds of sumptuous pictures in colour and black-andwhite. Very highly recommended.

new volume makes a good fist of attaining an overview of what is a huge subject.

From the golden era of the 1920s and 1930s, right up to modern companies doing convertibles and hearses, this is an alphabetical guide to the main coachbuilders of western continental Europe, from ACB of Paris to Zschau of Leipzig. All the big names are here but the real

treats are the minor players such as Colli and Marazzi.

This hardback has 240 pages and over 450 archive photos but we found ourselves really craving many more images. Many coachbuilders aren't illustrated at all. The main issue for this book, from an Italian enthusiasts' perspective at

least, is that more detailed works on Italian coachbuilders now exist. However, if your interest extends beyond Italy to the coachbuilders of Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland, it's definitely worth a look.



By James Taylor Herridge & Sons ISBN: 9781906133788 £40

There have been very few books on coachbuilding over the years but this







Auto Italia celebrates Maserati's 100th anniversary with a special, limited edition dedicated to the marque



Maserati Centenario is produced using superior materials and is one of the best quality publications so far to mark Maserati's 100th anniversary.

Maserati owner, author and music composer Simon Park records Maserati's progress from 1914 to 2014, with a contribution from Andy Heywood.

The photography, featuring many Maserati Club cars, is sourced from Auto Italia's own archives and the layout has been designed by Art Editor Michael Ward



Quads & Pecs

510hp of Alfa brawn in – for the first time – a four-wheel drive chassis. The Stelvio Quadrifoglio has all the hallmarks of glory on paper – but how does it perform? It's time to find out







bonnet, side intercooler vents, side skirts, extended body-coloured wheelarches and quad exhaust tailpipes – as well as those green cloverleaf emblems. It's sensitive to colour, though. Light colours really don't suit it – in white or Misano Blue it looks too bulky. Darker colours work far better; best of all, though, is red.

The QV is a little larger all round than the regular Stelvio: longer, wider, taller (4702/1681/1955mm versus 4687/1671/1903mm). With the V6 engine, 4x4 system and extra girth, it's no surprise that it's heavier too – even with light components like the driveshaft (carbonfibre) and the aluminium doors, wheelarches, bonnet and tailgate. Its kerb weight of 1830kg is some 170kg more than four-cylinder Stelvios. Nevertheless, Alfa is able to claim the best power-to-weight ratio in its class (279hp per tonne).

Thank the glorious engine for that – exactly the same 510hp 2.g-litre turbo V6 as in the Giulia QV. I have no hesitation in declaring it one of the all-time great Alfa engines, and it gives the Stelvio a slug of performance that SUV owners by rights should never expect. The official figures – 3.8 seconds o-62mph and a mighty top speed of 176mph – tell only a part of the story. In a straight line, it's faster than most supercars, let alone a chunky SUV. Yet it's so easy to drive in a docile manner. Having peak torque (600Nm) available from just 2500rpm certainly helps.

The ZF eight-speed automatic transmission – which has been recalibrated for the extra weight and four-wheel drive system – works superbly well: smooth, intuitive and fast (shifting gears in just 150 milliseconds in Race mode). Using the one-piece

aluminium paddle shifters for manual changes is a delight too – I find myself doing so pretty much all the time. My only gripe is the auto gear lever, which has a nastily down-market feel and reacts too slowly when it's moved from D to R to P.

The cabin looks lovely with its carbon-and-Alcantara steering wheel with red starter button, beautiful upholstery stitching and smatterings of carbon trim. It's not got quite the superior cabin cachet of the Maserati Levante, though – in my dreams I'd have a Stelvio QV with a Maserati interior. And the Maserati's touchscreen, which is far superior to the slow-witted, letterbox-format one in the Stelvio.

So now it's time to answer the question I've been keenest to know: how does the Stelvio QV handle? Alfa Romeo has set the bar high by promising "the handling of a supercar" – no small claim.

OK, time to tackle our first corner. The first impression is that turn-in isn't as sharp as the Giulia's but perhaps that's not surprising given the higher centre of gravity and extra weight. No problem with the sharpness and speed of the steering rack (with the most direct ratio in its class at 12.1:1). For some drivers, the steering speed could come as a surprise, but it'll be a welcome one for most. The first thing to be telegraphed through the seat of your pants is initial understeer, followed by a curious feeling that the car is starting to oversteer. But it's not; in fact, the Stelvio settles into a neutral, balanced attitude very quickly, with none of the roly-poly feel of SUV rivals. That's partly down to the near-perfect weight distribution of 53.8/46.2 front/rear.

Oversteer its very much reined in: in contrast to the

In a straight line, very little can touch the Stelvio QV, which eats tarmac for breakfast. Sounds fantastic, too

ALFA ROMEO STELVIO QUADRIFOGLIO

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

ALFA ROMEO STELVIO QUADFRIFOGLIO

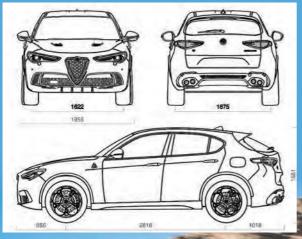
V6-cyl petrol twin-turbo 2891cc

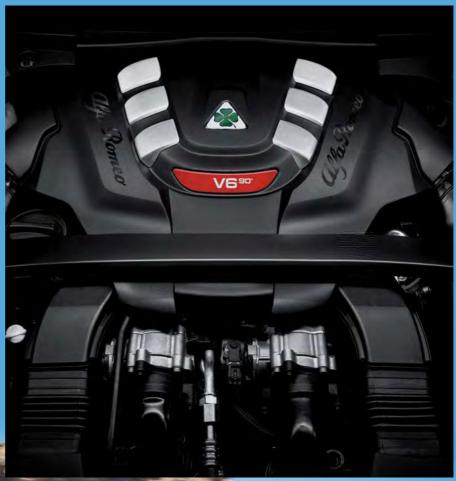
CAPACITY:
BORE X STROKE:
COMPRESSION RATIO:
POWER:
510hp @ 6500rpm
443lb ft (600Nm) @ 2500rpm

SUSPENSION: Double wishbone (front), multilink

(rear) 4702mm (L), 1681 (W), 1955mm (H) 1830kg 176mph DIMENSIONS: WEIGHT:

MAX SPEED: 0-62MPH: 3.8 sec FUEL CONSUMPTION: 31.4mpg 210g/km £75,000 (est) CO2: PRICE:











Cabin features lots of carbon trim, beautiful stitching and mostly very user-friendly controls

lairy rear-drive Giulia QV, the Stelvio's 4x4 system effectively makes it more controlled – and controllable. That's despite the fact that 100 per cent of the torque is directed to the rear wheels in normal driving. Only when there is loss of traction do the computer gubbins direct torque to the front end as well – up to 50 per cent – via a transfer case.

As I ascend the wide, sweeping curves of the Jebel Jais road, I succumb to the temptation to switch to Race mode, in which the stability control system is turned off. In the Giulia QV, this results in violent oversteer on demand. Not so the Stelvio. The Pirellis (P Zero as standard, with the Giulia's P Corsa tyres an extra-cost option) let you know when grip levels are being breached with a squealing from the front end. Hoof the accelerator mid-bend and the rear end starts to drift wide – great stuff. But while in the Giulia QV, that drift angle can become extreme – and very much depends on how heavy you are with your right foot – in the Stelvio the 4x4 system intervenes in combination

with torque vectoring (two clutches in the rear differential controlling torque to each wheel separately without input from the stability control system). The transition feels almost like four-wheel steer: the rear end seems to turn itself in to come into line.

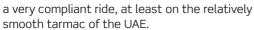
Admittedly, that means there's less drama – and, perhaps, less fun – than the Giulia QV, but ultimately the Stelvio is almost certainly the quicker car on twisty roads because you have more confidence to barrel in, especially in 'R' mode. Hoofing the throttle mid-corner merely sees you exiting at high speed in a predictable trajectory; it would take tremendous skill to attain such exit speeds in the Giulia. As for wet conditions, it would be no contest.

Putting the adjustable dampers to their 'mid' position in Race mode is surprisingly satisfying – it's very much not over-soft and gives you extra compliance over bumpy surfaces. Not that the ride quality – even in 'R' mode – is remotely uncomfortable. Indeed, the Stelvio combines a truly planted feel with



ALFA ROMEO STELVIO QUADRIFOGLIO





In short, you can spend most of your time in Race mode without feeling nervous – and you have the benefit of the lovely exhaust noise and sharper auto gearshifts that 'R' brings.

Braking is wonderful. The electromechanical 'Integrated Brake System' offers super-quick responses to pedal pressure, but the wheels don't seem to lock up as readily as they do on the regular Stelvio. As with the Giulia QV, carbon-ceramic discs will be available as an option.

A quick note about off-roading. OK, the Stelvio QV may not be the most obvious choice for wild woods and misty mountains, but the fact that it has ground clearance of over 200mm and a wading depth of 480mm gives you a bit of confidence that it can tackle the rough stuff. There was no off-road element to our test route – officially, at least – so we broke free and took an unmarked track up to the peak of Jebel Jais. We















ALFA ROMEO STELVIO QUADRIFOGLIO

got chased by a Jeep for a bit of a telling off but hey, it was worth it – our ascent on steep, sand-strewn tracks was straightforward, and returning back down let us test the hill descent control system (yes, it works!).

One final word about practicality; this is a Stelvio strong suit. There's plenty of space for five passengers, and for luggage: load capacity is 525 litres, or 1600 with the seats folded – figures Giulia QV owners can only dream of.

VERDICT

In the opinion of Ferrari and Maserati racer, Andrea Bertolini, the Stelvio QV is "the most exciting Alfa Romeo." No Andrea, I really can't agree with you – the Giulia QV and 4C both have stronger claims in the excitement department – but what I can say without question is that the Stelvio QV is the most accomplished car that Alfa Romeo has ever made. It's astonishingly well rounded, and so

exceptionally good in so many areas that it's the machine I'd choose if I could only have one car. In its armoury are the capability of beating probably most supercars in a straight line, out-dancing the reardrive Giulia QV on twisty, low-grip roads and fitting five people and their luggage in comfort.

It's not perfect, though. Some requests for the facelift: a better dashboard touchscreen, a nicer gear lever and a switch that can open those exhaust flaps whenever you want. That's nitpicking, though. The Stelvio Quadrifoglio is an epically fine car.

And so to the delicate subject of pricing. The Stelvio Quadrifoglio arrives in the UK in summer 2018, with pricing and specification yet to be confirmed. We do know the price in Italy, though, and it's a stinger: 95,000 euros, or around £85,000. But then the Giulia QV costs £72k in Italy (UK: £61k), so we'd expect the Stelvio QV to be around the £75,000 mark when it arrives in Britain. Expensive? Yes, but perhaps reassuringly so.



Lusso or Sport?

Maserati's executive saloon is relaunched for 2018 with a subtle facelift, more equipment, a power boost and new GranSport/GranLusso versions. Is it better to drive, though?

Story: Chris Rees Images: Maserati













t was 50 years ago that Maserati launched the Ghibli as its first-ever supercar. Since then, the name has morphed to suit Maserati's ever-changing character, with a brief revival in 1992, for instance, during the Biturbo era.

Four years ago, the Ghibli badge transformed again to grace a four-door model (even though Maserati plugs its executive-class saloon as "a coupe among sedans"). During those four years, some 82,000 Ghiblis have been made – small fry by BMW 5 Series standards, maybe, but huge by Maserati's. Indeed, the Ghibli is comfortably the best-selling Maserati of all time.

Now the Ghibli's getting a mid-life refresh and facelift, the latter only affecting the front and rear ends. I'm still not sure about Maserati's current Alfierinspired gaping maw grille. The chunky 'chrome' (actually plastic) bars look dramatic but somehow don't feel upmarket enough. Avoid the base model, which sticks with xenon headlights, and you get nice new adaptive LED headlights. And there are now distinct GranSport and GranLusso versions (see panel) with quite different looks, too.

During the facelift presentation, the Ghibli's shape is somewhat implausibly described by the design department as "Birdcage-inspired." You what? Whatever, it still looks classy and it's now slightly more aero-friendly with a Cd of 0.29, down from 0.31.

OK, it's time to drive the 2018 Ghibli on a route that takes in part of the Monte Carlo Rally stage above Grasse in France. Luckily, Alex Fiorio (the 1987 World Rally Champion, don't you know) is on hand to show us some of the danger spots. Good: this is a much bigger car than I recall – at 4971mm long, it's only 293 mm shorter than the Quattroporte, and just as wide. And only 50kg lighter. Not necessarily a recipe for super-sportiness, perhaps.

Let's find out. As before, the range is three-strong: Ghibli Diesel (275hp V6 oil-burner), Ghibli (35ohp V6 petrol) and Ghibli S (43ohp V6 petrol). It's only the petrol engines that have changed significantly: both are up by 2ohp from before. For this reason – and others that'll become clear – it's the 43ohp 'S' I'm keenest to drive.

What's immediately clear is that the 430hp engine is even more of a cracker. The Ghibli S reaches 178mph and accelerates from 0-62mph in 4.9 seconds (0.1sec faster than before). Torque is also up by 30Nm to 580Nm (428lb ft) at 2250rpm, so it's an effortless cruising machine too.

The Sport button is itching to be pressed. Hang on, I was expecting Maserati's trademark fireworks in the aural department but where are they? Yes, the exhaust note is gruffer but the signature 'pops' that we love Masers so much for are absent. In fact, the sound is much nicer from the outside than it is inside – or to put it another way, nicer for those who haven't bought the car!

The single biggest change for 2018 is the steering. No longer hydraulic, it's now electric, or more precisely, belt-driven with variable electronic assistance. Maserati describes its extra assistance and on-centre feel as 'feed-forward' (as opposed to 'feedback') but I think I'll stick with the regular syntax... The feel is in fact quite light and remains consistent across the lock. Compared to hydraulic, it comes across as a bit peculiar because you expect there to be more of a difference as you turn the wheel. It's not unpleasant, though, and it's a fast-acting, sensitive system.

Most cars make do with one suspension system. Not the Ghibli: you can buy three different ones – fixed-rate, Sport (also fixed) and Skyhook (electric adaptive dampers). Skyhook is standard on GranSport models, optional on others. Leave it in









TWO FOR THE PRICE OF **ONE: GRANLUSSO & GRANSPORT**

As with the recently facelifted GranTurismo, there are two distinct designs for the new Ghibli. The regular model and the new GranLusso share a 'luxury' look, while the GranSport goes sportier.

The GranLusso has chrome bumper inserts, black callipers and 19-inch wheels; the GranSport goes for piano black bumper bits, red callipers, 20-inch alloys and bluethemed badges. The lower grille has a more aggressive slant on the GS, too, with 'whiskers' that look like they're holding the main grille in place.

Inside, the GL's Ermenegildo Zegna silk upholstery is superb; you also have wood trim, Comfort seats, poweradjustable foot pedals, parking sensors and softclose doors. The GS goes with Sport leather seats/steering wheel, Sport pedals and standard gearshift paddles. If you want either GL or GS packages, they're £7320 on top of the regular price.

MASERATI GHIBLI S

ENGINE: 2979cc V6 twin-turbo petrol BORE X STROKE: 86.5mm x 84.5mm COMPRESSION RATIO: 9.7:1 430hp @ 5750rpm 580Nm (428lb ft) @ 2250rpm POWER: TOROUE: TRANSMISSION: 8-speed auto, rear-wheel drive SUSPENSION: Double wishbones (front), multi-link (rear), coil springs, anti-roll bars,

optional Skyhook adaptive dampers BRAKES: Vented discs, 360mm (front), 345mm (rear)

TYRES:

235/50 R18 (front), 275/45 R18 (rear) DIMENSIONS: 4971mm (L), 1945mm (W), 1461mm (H) WEIGHT: 1810kg

FUEL CONSUMPTION: 29.4mpg (combined)

COs. 223g/km TOP SPEED: 178mph 0-62MPH: 4.9sec PRICE £66,520

Normal mode and it remains comfortable over rough roads, with less body roll than you might expect; in Sport mode it's much stiffer.

Just for scientific value, I got to reacquaint myself with the diesel, which as diesels go is a lovely thing. In Sport mode, the volume of the exhaust increases, with a nice, gruff note emanating into the cabin. There's a very big difference when Sport suspension mode is activated in the diesel, in contrast to the 'S'. Sport mode really firms things up in the diesel, whereas there's surprisingly little change when you press 'Sport' in the 'S'. Even so, the heavier diesel feels much less resolved around bends.

In the 'S' the Ghibli's perfect 50/50 weight distribution comes alive, and both sharp and sweeping bends can be tackled with real enthusiasm. The tail end likes to wag, even with the stability control systems engaged - thanks, Maserati, for the playfulness - and the limited slip diff helps to push you keenly into the next straight.

The interior was upgraded last year with the superb touchscreen from the Levante, so it's not really changed for 2018, but there is a new soft-close door option that means the doors pull themselves shut.

Another new bit of tech that takes Maserati one step closer to that new-fangled autonomous driving lark is a new optional Driver Assistance Package, offering Highway Assist (from 20 to 85mph), Active Lance keep assist (40 to 112mph), Active Blind Spot Assist and Traffic Sign Assist.

VERDICT

The biggest change for 2018 is the electric steering. which is better than before but still feels guirky. No question, the Ghibli S is the version to have. It's the most resolved around corners and the power boost to 430hp is just what you want from a Maserati (as well as that engine note, obviously).

It's the SQ4 with four-wheel drive that's the best of all the Ghiblis but sadly 4x4 isn't available in righthand drive because of packaging issues. Sad because the SQ4 works really well. The new Ghibli range is priced from £51,165 for the diesel; the 'S' that we prefer is £66,520.



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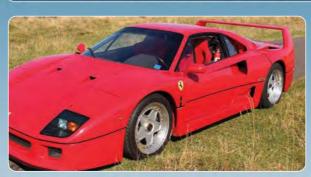
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Lamborghini Urus

Lamborghini's controversial new Urus is a bold "Super Sport Utility Vehicle." Not only is it the world's fastest SUV, it's also the first turbocharged Lambo ever. Here are the 12 questions we need answering.



1. That design - what the ...?

Lamborghini cites various design cues from its current and past line-ups, giving it "pure Lamborghini DNA." The LMoo2 (see page 32) gets a big nod. For instance, the small triangular air outlet ahead of the door is "reminiscent of the LM002" while the wheelarch design is LM002-inspired, too.

Less obviously, Bologna's supercars such as the Countach and Miura are credited for much of the design inspiration. The angular windows are claimed to echo those of the Countach, while the bonnet hump recalls the Miura's, apparently. The huge front air intakes sport a clear Aventador-style hexagonal theme.

The door handles have raised significant debate already. The front ones are sited below the body swage line, while the rear ones nestle atop the huge bulging wheelarch - surely the only car on sale to have this unusual quirk.

2. Is it as crazy on the inside?

Like other modern Lamborghinis, the cabin makes the driver "feel like a pilot" thanks to the enveloping dashboard and hexagonal design theme. Highly customisable materials include leather, Alcantara, aluminium, carbonfibre and wood.

The seating position is unusually low by SUV standards but there's space for up to five occupants (optionally only four), and even the boot is big at a claimed 616 litres (seats up) or 1596 litres (seats down).

3. Just how big is it?

Even by super-SUV standards, this is a gigantic machine. It's longer and wider than the gargantuan LM002, although it's lower. The wheelbase of 3003mm is also very long. The position of the engine keeps the car's centre of gravity low. With a kerb weight of around 2200kg, it's no lightweight but certainly not the heaviest SUV on the market. The wheels - at anything from 21in to 23in are the largest in the segment.

4. Turbos in a Lambo - why?

The Urus has a 4.0-litre V8 aluminium engine with twin turbos - the first ever turbocharged engine in a Lamborghini. Why? Because only a turbo engine delivers the torque output needed at low revs for off-roading.

Peak power of 650hp (478 kW) arrives at 6000rpm, and there's a 6800rpm redline. In terms of torque, it boasts 627lb ft (850Nm) from as low as 2250rpm. The Urus has one of the highest specific power outputs in its class, as well as the best power-to-weight ratio.

Transmission is by an eight-speed automatic gearbox that's set up "to provide very short low gear ratios and longer high gears" so it will accelerate fast away from the line, yet maintain good cruising ability.

5. How fast will it go, mister?

Lamborghini quotes a o-62mph acceleration time of 3.6 seconds, o-124mph in 12.8 seconds and a top speed of 189mph. Is there a faster SUV? Lamborghini thinks not.

6. Can it really go anywhere?

There's a Torsen self-locking centre differential that should make it a usable tool off-road. The torque split is 40/60 front/rear, changeable to 70% to the front or 87% to the rear, enhancing traction to the axle with the best grip. As for ground clearance, that varies from 158mm to 248mm using the air suspension.

As standard, there's a Neve (snow) drive mode. But you can also order an optional Off-Road Package that adds two extra modes - Terra (off-road) and Sabbia (sand) as well as reinforced bumpers and extra underfloor protection.



7. So is it meant more for fast road use?

"Daily usability" is highlighted by Lamborghini, suggesting its real focus is more as a road car that can be used in all conditions. The 4WD system has active torque vectoring and four-wheel steering, while there's adaptive air suspension and active roll stabilisation (a first for Lamborghini) to reduce roll angles on bumpy roads.

Lamborghini claims "perfect handling" by using rear-wheel steering and active torque vectoring via a rear differential, enabling the power to be sent to whichever individual wheel has the best traction.

8. What about stopping power?

Massive carbon ceramic brakes are fitted, with 10-piston callipers up front and sixpiston ones at the back. The claimed braking distance from 62mph is just 33.7 metres.

g. What's it all made of?

Mostly it's a mix of aluminium and steel. You'll find aluminium in much of the chassis, the frameless doors, cross-members, front

subframe and parts of the rear subframe. But carbon? Not really – only the brakes and some cabin trim.

10. What's that name about?

The name Urus, as usual for a Lambo, derives from a bull. 'Urus' is the Spanish word for the aurochs, an ancestor of domestic cattle.

11. What does it sound like?

Despite the adoption of turbos for the first time, we are promised an "inimitable Lamborghini sound." That varies from subdued "low-frequency sounds" in Strada mode to "a sportier and more exciting Lamborghini sound and feedback in Corsa." The exhaust system also changes at higher revs to a "guttural, sporty sound."

12. And, er, how much?

If you want to buy a Urus, you'll need to shell out £157,800. The first customers will take delivery in spring 2018, and Lamborghini plans to build 1000 units in the first year, rising to 3500 in 2019.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

LAMBORGHINI URUS ENGINE: 3996cc V8 twin-turbo POWER: 650hp at 6000rpm TORQUE: 627lb ft (850Nm) at 2250-4500rpm TRANSMISSION: 8-speed automatic, four-wheel drive Carbon ceramic discs, **BRAKES:** 440x40mm front. 370x30mm rear 285/45 R21 to 285/35 R23 TYRES: (front), 315/40 R21 to 325/30 R23 (rear) 5112mm (L), 2016mm (W), 1638mm (H) DIMENSIONS: WEIGHT: 2200kg FUEL CONSUMPTION: 22.2mpg CO2: 290g/km MAX SPEED: 189mph 0-62MPH: 3.6sec £157,800 PRICE:



n decades to come, when social historians record the global motoring tastes of the early 21st century, the rise of prestige-branded SUVs will undoubtedly fill a chapter or two. When Big Ben struck midnight for the new millennium, the only serious 'posh' 4x4 available to affluent farmers and footballers' wives was the Range Rover.

Fast forward just a few years, though, and the likes of Porsche, Maserati, Jaguar and Bentley populated the lumbering premium SUV sector to meet the insatiable growth in demand for such vehicles, especially in developing markets such as China, Russia and India.

And in the next couple of years, revered names like Rolls-Royce and (heaven forbid) Ferrari, will be added to this roster. But today, it's Lamborghini that's grabbing the headlines with its long-anticipated twinturbocharged V8 Urus. Unlike other prestige marques, though, which are all new to the SUV arena,



Lamborghini has previous experience in the world of super-sized off-roaders.

Yes, the brick-shaped LMoo2 – the nomenclature signifying Lamborghini Militari 002 – was built between 1986 and 1993. Just over 300 examples were assembled at Sant'Agata, of which 48 were to LM/A (LM/American) specification for delivery to the United States, where they were snapped up by the likes of Sylvester Stallone and Tina Turner. Other 'notables'

also on the excessive 4x4's client list included Colonel Gaddafi and Saddam Hussein's son, Uday.

Even by the standards of Lamborghini, the LMoo2 was extreme. Its roots date back to 1977, when the then-struggling Bologna tractor and exotic sports car maker first presented its ambitious but flawed Cheetah 4x4 military prototype at the Geneva Motor Show. Built in California on contract from Mobility Technology International (MTI), the Cheetah was

aimed at the US military, as well as the oil exploration and production industries.

Frustratingly for Lamborghini and MTI, the Cheetah not only failed to secure any orders from these target groups, but its heavy rear-mounted Chrysler V8 engine led to poor weight distribution that caused some unfavourable handling characteristics off road. Indeed the prototype was inadvertently rolled during US army testing! It also attracted unwelcome legal action from Ford, which claimed the high-mobility combat Lambo was a copy of its own patented FMC XR311 off-road military machine.

Undeterred by the disappointing Cheetah experience, a financially reinvigorated Lamborghini revisited the off-road military opportunity with another version in 1981: the reworked LMoo1. The boys from Bologna replaced the Cheetah's Chrysler V8 with an equally weighty and asthmatic 18ohp AMC 5.9-litre V8. Bizarrely it was also rear-mounted, so it still suffered from unpredictable handling, ultimately leading Lamborghini to abandon its military project, having built just a single LMoo1 prototype.

After two failed attempts, most car companies would have torn up any plans to break into the potentially lucrative North American and Middle Eastern specialist forces markets but Lamborghini persevered – would it be third time lucky? It dusted off its LMoo1, assembled an entirely new tubular steel spaceframe chassis (incorporating all-independent double wishbone suspension with coil springs), relocated the engine to the front and switched to its own home-grown V12 from the contemporary Countach. An extensive off-road testing programme was undertaken, with many key alterations made to the LMoo1 in the process.

After building another prototype called LMA (A for anteriore, to reflect the 4x4's new front-mounted engine layout), Lamborghini's resulting production model was labelled LMoo2, and unveiled at the Brussels Motor Show in January 1986. This was a much more 'civilised' machine, with a luxurious leather and wood interior, plus a wealth of the latest mid-1980s gadgets, including air conditioning and a

premium roof-mounted audio system.

Installing the 450hp 5.2-litre V12 Countach motor up front, Lamborghini transformed the dynamic behaviour of its pumped-up 4x4 off-roader. It was capable of propelling the blunt-fronted, 2700kg LM002 to 60mph in a swift 7.7 seconds, and on to a top speed approaching 120mph. A 7.3-litre LM004 version was also offered for oil tycoons, using the Paolo Stanzani-designed Lamborghini V12 L804 off-shore powerboat racing engine!

To help keep the LM on, and off, the road, Lamborghini commissioned Pirelli to create purposebuilt 325/65 Scorpion run-flat tyres, available on bespoke OZ alloy rims, and with two different custom tread patterns; one for mixed use and the other specifically for sand. These bespoke Pirellis could be run virtually flat without risk, and could handle the Lamborghini's extreme loads and high speeds, plus desert heats. They're fiendishly expensive to replace.

For those long desert treks, the LM was equipped with a 290-litre fuel tank (other tank capacities could be specified), which, running at a realistic average of around 7mpg, would cost an eye-watering £350 plus to fill up today.

Ahead of sampling Lamborghini's more frugal new Urus in the coming months, we thought it timely to reacquaint ourselves with Sant'Agata's SUV heritage, in the imposing form of the 'Rambo Lambo.' We popped along to Duncan Hamilton ROFGO's impressive new purpose-built premises, near Micheldever in Hampshire, to try an exceptional, painstakingly restored LMoo2, just before it headed off to France where its new owner had recently part-exchanged his Espada for this rather more versatile Lamborghini!

As the LMoo2 came up to working temperature – doubtless consuming many litres of fuel in the process – we surveyed the commanding machine's exterior, marvelling at the Countach V12 neatly shoehorned into the tight engine bay, as well as its perfectly flat glassfibre and alloy panels. The rear end is equally imposing with its huge spare wheel and sizeable rear 'sun deck', intended to carry a sheik's quartet of henchmen, where the V8 engine of the

















original Cheetah and LMoo1 prototypes were mounted. In this example, the deck is filled by a lockable storage container.

Given the LMoo2's vast size – measuring over 16 feet, or 4.9 metres in length – internally the vehicle has less space than your average garden shed. Though comfy, the plush leather seats are a tight fit, with room for strictly four occupants only. The footwell space is equally squeezed, with a vast centre console dominating the cabin – a characteristic shared with the later US Forces Humvee/Hummer, which clearly took a large slug of inspiration from the Lamborghini.

Once installed aloft in the 'cosy' driver's seat, two long levers fall to hand. These select four-wheel drive and the limited-slip differentials, sending 25%, drive to the front and 75% to the rear. The five-speed manual gear lever is a stretch away, while the floor-mounted handbrake is completely hidden by the driver's leg.

The small leather steering wheel is shared with the contemporary Countach. The instrument-strewn

walnut dash looks classy and creates the right impression for a luxury off-roader, but the utterly confusing array of randomly-positioned Fiat-sourced warning lights, column stalks and switches (many sheathed in rubber to protect them from desert sand ingress) are a bit of a let-down, as are the abysmal ergonomics and distracting reflections from the flat windscreen and door glass.

Turn the awkwardly placed ignition key (from a Fiat 127) to wake the beast, and the pre-warmed LMoo2 fires up immediately with a menacing growl and gentle rocking motion. Edging out on to the open Hampshire country lanes, you immediately sense that the Lambo wants to be let off the leash; it's not happy pottering along at scenic village speeds.

Dwarfing terrified-looking oncoming drivers in their dinky little Range Rovers and Volvo XC90s ("Call that an SUV?!"), the LM behaves like it's got the local postman's Berlingo delivery van caught in a tyre tread. The Lamborghini's immense power and presence



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

LAMBORGHINI LM002

5167cc V12 ENGINE: BORE X STROKE: 85.5mm x 75mm COMPRESSION RATIO: 9.5:1 450hp @ 6800rpm POWER: (414hp @ 6800rpm pre-1990) 500Nm (369lb ft) @ 4500rpm TORQUE: TRANSMISSION: 5-speed manual, four-wheel drive BRAKES: Ventilated 305mm discs (front), 305mm drums (rear) 325/65 VR17 (front), 325/65 VR17 TYRES: (rear) DIMENSIONS: 4902mm (L), 2000mm (W), 1850mm (H) 2700kg WEIGHT: FUEL CONSUMPTION: 7.9mpg MAX SPEED: 121mph 0-62MPH: 7.9sec PRICE IN 1990 £100,500 VALUE TODAY: £320,000

causes villagers' heads to swivel as they perhaps muse on the prospect of an out-of-town rapper or drug dealer arriving to buy up their charming dwellings and bulldoze them into oblivion to create a new live music festival venue. And as for manoeuvring in tight spaces, there's a 40-foot turning circle to contend with.

As soon as the road opens up, I do the same in the LM, with the V12 sounding like a distant thunderstorm at full chat. As the speed increases, the Lambo gets into its stride, with the slightly wayward, jittery handling and ride becoming more settled, especially on long straights. Corners can remain a challenge, though, as the weighty monster rolls on the rims of its enormous 'moon buggy' tyres.

No doubt, Lamborghini's new Urus will be a vastly superior SUV package in every area than the marque's first production 4x4. But if you have the money and space, the LMoo2 must rank as the ultimate millionaire's toy. Pointless? Perhaps. But pleasurable – without doubt.



THE URUS THAT NEVER WAS

Lamborghini might have returned to the super-SUV arena in 1998 with the LMoo3 Borneo (above). This was a project created by Zagato, with the design talent of Norihiko Harada behind its extraordinary shape.

It would have been manufactured in a joint venture between Indonesian-based Timor and Lamborghini, with the bodywork made in the Far East. Lamborghini's boss at the time, Michael Kimberley, considered three different body configurations: a four-door version like the LMoo2, an estate car model and an open-topped version. Ultimately, however, the plan never came to fulfilment. Zagato did construct a full-scale mock up but no working prototype was ever finished.





Numero Uno

What you see here is the oldest Alfa Romeo still on the road, and the earliest example of the ultra-rare G1 still in existence.

Of its many claims to fame, perhaps the story of its chief engineer is the most fascinating

Words: Peter Collins Images: RM Sotheby's & Peter Collins





e all love a tale with an air of mystery, and the life of Giuseppe Merosi is full of it. If he were alive today, he would not be the sort of person who'd have a Facebook or Twitter account. The quality of his work alone seems to have been enough for him to land top jobs in the fledgling automotive and engineering industries of an Italy that was still largely an agricultural and cottage industry-based.

Merosi was part of the very fibre of Alfa Romeo in the early days. Our story starts with the short-lived Società Anonima Italiana Darracq, a firm based first in Naples and then moving to Milan in 1907. SAID assembled French Darracq vehicles but it went bust in 1909, at which moment its assets were acquired by a new group of investors. The resultant company was given the historic acronym, ALFA (Società Anonima Lombarda Fabbrica Automobili). This sounded like the Greek word 'alpha' and suggested a new dawn-like beginning and a hint of greater things to come. Giuseppe Merosi was taken on in 1909 as technical director, the post becoming official on 1 January 1910.

But where had Merosi come from? His background is shaded in mystery but thanks to Alfa historians, Fusi and Anselmi, we know that he was born in Piacenza in 1872. His father had a candle-making business and his parents were affluent enough to send him to Technical College, where he proved capable of achieving the status of 'Geometra'. We would know this position now as Surveyor and, despite his eventual rise through the automotive industry, he was forever after known by that title.

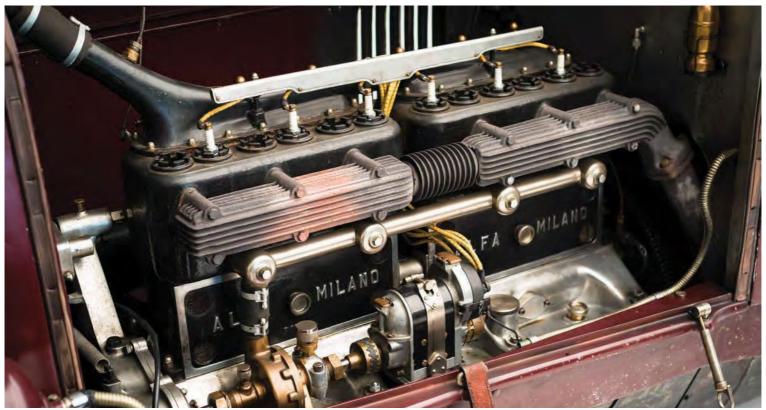
Merosi was very shy and reticent, it seems, and there are many gaps in the story of his life, but what we do know is that he joined together with a man called Vittorio Bassi to produce bicycles in Piacenza. By 1897, these were being manufactured under the fashionable and very English name of Endless.

At around this time, a sewing machine and motorcycle company by the name of Orio & Marchand had moved from Milan to Piacenza and Merosi left

Endless to join this company, impressing his employers enough to become chief designer. It would appear that O&M was active in motor sports of the period, from which Giuseppe was able to gain a sound basis in the discipline. He may have been reticent, but he was obviously eager and proactive. It seems he next moved to Turin in 1905 to take up a job with Fiat, but only for a year or so because he was soon offered a position as head of the burgeoning automotive engineering department at Bianchi in Milan. Once there, he took over all responsibility for its cars including, in 1910, the introduction of Bianchi's first shaft-drive chassis. This was innovative in a world where chain-drive was the norm. Bianchi was a large and important manufacturer at this time, so it is highly likely that Giuseppe would have been well up the list of engineers that the new owners of ALFA might want to head-hunt.

And so it came to pass. From the start of 1910, Merosi assumed full responsibility for the development of the new company's future products. This also coincided with the introduction of the 'L' head (sidevalve) engine which was clearly better and more efficient than the previously popular, but archaic, 'T' head technology suited to poor petrol and reliability. Merosi's first two designs for ALFA used the new sidevalve system: a 4084cc 34HP engine and a 2413cc 12HP unit. Despite the innovations, the rest of the new models were strictly conventional. Even so, the company ventured into motor sports via a few events that helped to establish a reputation for the new marque.

Little discussed today, though, is the fact that the first real success for Merosi was in aeronautics, when one of his engines was fitted, in 1910, to a biplane built by Santoni-Franchini – both engineers whom he knew. Santoni had developed a supercharger and equipped with one of these, the plane made its first flight in September of that year. ALFA decided to stick to cars and Santoni joined the company as head of the design department under Merosi, whilst Franchini was the firm's chief test driver and competition pilot. It is said







that they planned ahead together and shared ideas. In his book, *La Mie Gioie Terribili*, Enzo Ferrari describes Merosi as "an excellent automotive technician, although he had actually studied as a building surveyor," going on to mention that Santoni was "actually a pharmacist."

Together, the team developed a Grand Prix car in 1914 and Merosi was at the forefront of automotive technology by designing a twin overhead camshaft layout for the engine. The DOHC the technique had only been around for some 18 months but, before it could be put to the test, the First World War intervened, followed by the takeover of ALFA in June 1915 by Nicola Romeo, who immediately changed the company's priorities to the production of armaments and munitions. With nothing to design, in 1917 Merosi was sent to Naples to run another of Romeo's companies, the Ferroviarie Meridionali railway works, before returning to his old job in Milan in 1918 at the cessation of hostilities.

Car production at ALFA resumed slowly with a few pre-war models produced by 1920, when Nicola Romeo added his surname to the company's title and it became Alfa Romeo officially. The first true post-war Alfa was the ES of 1921, which enjoyed some motor sport success, especially with the likes of Enzo Ferrari at the wheel, and it was from this point that Alfa's sporting credentials began to be firmly cemented.

And so to the story of our feature car, a 1921 Alfa Romeo G1, which is soon to be auctioned by RM Sotheby's at its 2018 Amelia Island sale. This is an example of Merosi's next model, which was mentioned particularly by both Enzo Ferrari and Luigi Fusi in their books. The former remembered that Giorgio Rimini of Alfa sold him a G1 without ever delivering it. After a long wait with nothing appearing, Enzo contacted Rimini and reminded him that he had paid a large deposit for it at which point the Alfa man whipped out

ALFA ROMEO G1

6.3-litre straight six offered very high performance in its day. This G1 saw action at the 2017 Goodwood Members Meeting





the signed contract for the car, which stated vaguely that it would be delivered "as soon as possible and possibly even earlier." Enzo said he learnt a lesson that day that stayed with him for the rest of his life.

What both Fusi and Ferrari also said about the G1 was that, in the former case, "it was derived from an American car that had been brought over specially," whilst Fusi states that "it was based on the design of both British and American cars of the time." Peter Hull in his book on the later RL model also states that Alfa bought a Pierce-Arrow in order to investigate how it worked and how it was made; however – other than the fact that the two cars were sixes – there was precious little similar between them. Griffith Borgeson also put forward the idea that what Alfa really wanted was a detailed insight into the high quality of workmanship and finish of the American car that was afforded by the use of "machine, rather than hand, methods of manufacture."

'Our' featured G1 here is one of only 52 constructed and bears the chassis number 6018. G1s could be bought as both torpedoes and limousines and were powered by a 6.3-litre straight-six sidevalve motor – the largest ever fitted to an Alfa Romeo. It developed 70hp at 210orpm and a substantial 216lb ft of torque, driving through a four-speed gearbox – enough for a top speed of 86mph. The G1 enjoyed foot pedal controlled rear brakes with an added transmission brake operated by hand, right-hand drive and the luxury of 12-volt electrics.

This particular G1 was originally purchased by a client in Australia who, after some use, committed it to storage for 20 years until it was discovered as one of the earliest of all barn finds in the late 1940s, at which time it was hidden away again until 1965 when it was acquired by Ross Flewell-Smith who restored it in the 1970s. Since the original bodywork was no more, he contacted Luigi Fusi, the legendary Alfa Romeo employee who would later be the curator of Alfa Romeo's museum, who offered guidance on crafting new Torpedo-style coachwork. Its picture is reproduced



Focused cockpit is righthand drive, of course. You could reach nearly 90mph at full chat in the G1

in Fusi's book, Alfa Romeo: Tutte Le Vetture Dal 1910.
Some 30 years later, in the 2000s, it was restored

again by Neville Crichton, the head of Australia's Alfa Romeo importer at the time. Then it was repatriated to the USA and worked on again to its current Spider Corsa form as an open-wheeled, two-seat racing car. It has won prizes twice at the Pebble Beach Concours, the last time as recently as 2013. It also took part in the 2014 Mille Miglia and in the 2017 Goodwood Members Meeting.

As the oldest running Alfa in the world and the only complete G1 in existence, this is a highly historic machine. When it is sold at the RM Sotheby's Century of Sports Cars sale on 18-19 January in Phoenix, USA, it could well fetch over £1 million. Let us hope that the next custodian keeps it running so that we can all see why we should thank Giuseppe Merosi for being responsible for the survival of Alfa Romeo as a car producer and the forefather of the Giulia and Stelvio, amongst hundreds of others.





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1967 Fiat Abarth 1000 Berlina Corsa £75,000.00. As featured in this month's AutoItalia

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Forza Corsa

Raucous, lairy and hilarious, the Group 2 Fiat-Abarth 1000 dominated its classes in international motorsport in the 1960s. What's it like to drive today?

Words: Simon Park Images: Michael Ward







n a feature on another potent Abarth, some years ago, I suggested that '101 Things To Do With A Baby Fiat' still awaited an author. Since then, Big Mama herself has staked her literary claim, churning out the current 500, 595 and 695 in a bewildering number of variants and special editions. But in fact, Carlo Abarth was a dab hand at that in his day, too, and his reworkings of the 500 and 600 models were equally prolific.

He certainly wrote that other book, too – the one about squeezing unfeasible amounts of power and performance out of the Torinese toddlers which, with his moniker added, dominated the lower echelons of international motorsport throughout much of the 1960s. Should you venture into your friendly local Abarth dealer now, shopping

perhaps for one of the current 595s (and you should – they're irresistible), you will be offered a range of versions which includes a Turismo and a Competizione. Nowadays, these 'Touring' and 'Competition' epithets are ascribed, perhaps somewhat whimsically, to different versions of the same model; but 50 years ago they were joined at the hip.

Like Enzo Ferrari, Carlo Abarth was first and foremost a racer. But whilst Ferrari built distinctive, dedicated road cars merely to pay for his (generally) very different, but similarly focused, racers, Abarth's road-going models derived from Fiat's little shopping trolleys were essentially dual purpose, designed to be deployed in every conceivable motorsport discipline. Which is why the 600-based cars were labelled Turismo Competizione – until, that is, the ultimate 982cc version arrived in

1965. Although often referred to as the 1000TC, its official factory designation was now Berlina Corsa – simply, racing saloon.

In the 850TC (actually 847cc) that it replaced, the 600 engine's bore, at 62.5mm, was pretty close to the water. In the quest for a full litre, therefore, Abarth built his own blocks with thicker metal which allowed for a 65mm bore (in conjunction with a 5mm longer stroke). Its other essentials – camshaft, carburettor and so on – were unchanged, but the extra capacity took power from around 60hp to an eventual 85hp at a heady 7600rpm.

The example we have here is an archetype of the breed – an original, pukka Group 2 car from 1967. "It is believed to be a 'clienti' car", says marque guru Tony Castle-Miller, whose Middle Barton Garage is currently offering it





for sale. "Abarth used to 'lend' cars to teams based outside Italy (such as Radbourne Racing), not because he was generous but because he wanted full grids in the 850 and 1000cc classes. In order to score maximum points in the European Touring Car Championship, the classes had to be full."

Carlo had another compelling reason for fielding as many of his cars as possible: a deal he had struck with Fiat guaranteed him cash payments for all points scored for a first or second place – by factory entries or privateers. Nice work if you can get it; but this cushy arrangement was obviously of

benefit to both parties, allowing Fiat to bask in reflected glory whilst helping to keep the Austrian émigré's company afloat for a good few years.

Climb out of a modern 595 and straight into its 50-year-old ancestor (which I did) and the genetic inheritance of the current car becomes as plain as the proverbial pikestaff. The hard bark of a small, well-tuned four-potter and the womb-like interior environment are common to both – but on different scales. Reminders of how lardy new cars have become don't come any starker than this – the 600 feels like a

toy now, but it's nice and snug in here, the seat a comfortably tight fit for the average male *derrière*, the high side bolsters clamping you firmly in place around corners. The two substantial padded leg-rests – on the door and just in front of the gear lever – are a big help here, too.

Turning the key really transports you back to the (tail-)swinging Sixties. The noise makes the 2017 car's fruity, carefully nurtured exhaust sound quite polite – that anyone could do 500km around Monza, say, in one of these without serious hearing damage beggars belief. But at least you'd

FIAT ABARTH 1000 BERLINA CORSA







have had time to master the gearchange, which is, er, challenging. The five ratios are arranged with the top four in the 'H' (first is out on its own, bottom left) and the sideways 'throws' are really short.

With synchromesh on the top four, actual gear selection is excellent - crisp and clean. But getting across from one plane to the next involves luck as well as judgement. It was, therefore, quite reassuring to hear Tony admit that he, too, has had problems with this type of 'box. "I've lost races going from first to fourth [at the start]", he admitted. "It's an original Abarth gearbox that wasn't

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

FIAT ABARTH 1000 BERLINA CORSA

982cc 4-cyl OHV ENGINE: BORE X STROKE: COMPRESSION RATIO: 65mm x 74mm 13:1 CARBURETTOR: Weber 36 DCD7

POWER: 85hp @ 7600rpm TORQUE: TRANSMISSION: 65lb ft (88Nm) @ 5500rpm

Five-speed, rear-wheel drive
Double wishbones, telescopic dampers
(f), coil springs, telescopic dampers (r)
Discs all round SUSPENSION:

BRAKES: WHEELS: 4.50L-13

Yokohama A.drive 165/70 R13 TYRES:

WEIGHT: 583kg MAX SPEED: 120mph





built for getting you off the line, but for doing 500km around Monza". Quite.

Once you are off the line, though, you'll get plenty of practice. No fewer than five final-drive ratios were available from the factory, ranging from a 5.4:1 hillclimb screamer to a relatively relaxed 3.9:1 for those 500km marathons. Tony is unsure which one resides here but reckons it's probably one of the ones in between. Whatever, the gearing feels lowish, and the little four's eagerness to assail the upper reaches of the 10,000rpm rev counter (which is redline-free) means cogs need swapping frequently.

It's a properly meaty motor that really starts to pull at between four and five thou and is still delivering the goods big time at six-plus. I don't doubt it would have continued happily on upwards into the mid-sevens, where the power peaks, and probably well beyond; but I decided to take that on trust. Mustering around 145bhp per tonne, the 1000 Berlina Corsa actually feels much closer in sheer thrust to the current 595 (172bhp per tonne) than it has any right to, and it would

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certainly keep the young upstart on its toes. And thanks to brake discs on all four corners, it stops as well as it goes.

Steering is nicely direct with only minimal free play around the straight-ahead, perfectly weighted and giving you good feedback about what's happening up front. That's likely to be pretty formidable understeer, exacerbated by the limited-slip diff – unless and until you lift off mid-corner, that is, when you have to be mighty quick to catch the alarmingly sudden transition to lots of the other stuff as weight transfers forwards, combined with camber change, dramatically reducing rear wheel grip. That's the *other* sting in the scorpion's tail – just like a baby Porsche g11.

On the track, the answer is early turn-in and pedal to the metal all the way round; but on north Oxfordshire's greasy back-doubles, that's a high-risk strategy. Mind you, one deserted roundabout did allow me to dip a toe in the water, so to speak – enough to confirm the basic principles whilst keeping it on the island (or rather, off it). While all this



stuff is going on, you tend not to notice the ride quality, which is actually not at all bad for something so focused on going round corners insanely quickly. But you'd probably appreciate it whilst notching up those 500 clicks round Monza...

A brisk drive out in one of Carlo's hot babies makes it crystal clear why they were and indeed still are - so sought-after and so successful as racers. In their day, they could mix it with the best of the opposition - Mini-Coopers et al – and they brought home the bacon with astonishing regularity. They may no longer be as cheap as they once were this example is priced at £75,000 - but you still get a lot of bang for your buck, to say nothing of loads of fun. They were also, of course, the inspiration behind the wonderful contemporary 595. But it is the original which retains the bragging rights - the foundation of an Abarth dynasty with a unique, truly iconic aura.

Thanks to Middle Barton Garage. Tel: 01869 345766, Web; www.middlebartongarage.com







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Injection Of Class

When the engine in this freshly imported Dino needed a rebuild, its owner not only restored the whole car but also switched from "painful" Webers to modern fuel injection

Words: Peter Nunn Images: Michael Ward





The Fiat Dino coupe was styled by Giorgetto Giugiaro while at Bertone, and initially appeared in 2.0-litre form at the 1967 Geneva Show. But it's the later 2.4-litre version that Doug has rescued from Italy and has superbly brought back to life.

Some might question the whole idea of fuel injection. As tricky as Webers can sometimes be, many will recall (and shudder at the thought of) certain contemporary fuel injection systems. Alfa Romeo suffered with Spica injection while Triumph had a nightmare with Lucas. On the flipside, Peugeot and BMW prospered with reliable Kugelfischer mechanical systems. Doug's Dino conversion, however, uses the kind of technology that wasn't around when the Dino was new.

"We had an old Ferrari 308 which we rebuilt, and it had the same Weber downdraught 40 DCNF



carburettors as the Dino," recalls Doug. "They're great carbs, but they're from a different age and I just got fed up having to adjust all these screw things. So when we bought the Fiat, we wanted something that you could plug and play, really. That was the theory. I did some research and discovered that Jenvey, a little company in the Midlands, do a lot of throttle body injection systems that are a direct fit for different types of carbs.

"So I started working it out on paper. What I didn't want to do was drill any holes in the engine block or anything like that. We managed to do the whole thing with completely external sensors, or using adaptors for existing sensors, so that if you wanted to put it back to carburettors, you could. You wouldn't know the difference."

Doug always wanted a Dino because of the shape. Then, as now, the discreet elegance of that GT body, coupled with the glamour and sound of that quad cam Ferrari V6, makes for a powerful combination. The Mafia thought so too, in *The Italian Job*.

"This one was a complete basket case when we bought it in San Pellegrino, where the water comes from. We trailered it back and from Italy hoping to do a service on it, get it roadworthy and then go out and enjoy it, "says Doug.

However, it soon became clear there was a problem, and a big one. That 65-degree V6 nestling under the bonnet just didn't sound right. Doug took the engine out and stripped it down completely, taking the block to a local engine builder. A couple of days later came the bad news: somewhere along the line, the Dino V6's bottom end had been rebuilt with the wrong bearing caps on the block...

Deep breath. So it was an engine rebuild. Many of us would surely run up the white flag and defer to professional assistance here but Doug was keen to do the work himself. Piece by piece, the V6 was rebuilt using new high-compression pistons, water pump and valve springs. Everything was replaced apart from the cams, which were like new.

Visually, the end result under the bonnet is amazing. But how the changes work that we're really interested in. For instance, Doug has fitted an oil radiator and a high-pressure fuel pump to help the V6 cope with the rigours of modern day life. Doug also put on twin cooling fans because, as standard, the Dino's weedy little Fiat fan is too weak. Doug grimaces at the

thought of the Fiat's original brake booster pump, too ("a crazy design") – remarkably, its replacement has been sourced from an electric vehicle parts bin.

Rather than run a traditional distributor and coil, the Dino adopts modern-style coil pack ignition. At the front end, there's a toothed wheel with one tooth missing, which is how the 'brain' times the ignition and starter.

And how about that fabulous looking airbox? "I had to have a new airbox made up because the original one wouldn't fit the new trumpets on the throttle bodies," says Doug. "It's actually a filter from a Honda Accord. I got a local metalwork company to make up the box for me to look a bit like a 1960s Ferrari."

Power? "We've got 170hp at 5000rpm on the dyno," says Doug, "and it normally redlines at about 7000rpm. Out of the box, Fiat quoted 180hp and Ferrari said 190hp, and there's still a lot of argument about that because it's exactly the same engine..."

Early Dinos from 1966 to 1969 were built by Fiat, the later 2.4 cars such as Doug's were assembled by Ferrari at Maranello. However, "Much to the annoyance of Ferrari Dino owners, every single engine part is stamped Fiat because they did all the castings and it was beyond Ferrari's capabilities at the time," says Doug.

As well as the engine, the whole Dino has had a complete restoration from the floor up, almost all by Doug. It was away for 18 months for what turned out to be an abortive respray, so that had to be done again, while the gearbox was a specialist rebuild, as was the line boring in the engine.

You get the sense that Doug really enjoyed the challenge. Some impossible-to-find parts came all the way from a breaker's yard in Naples. "You'd send him a photo of what you wanted, he'd send you one back showing the part he'd got." He likens it to the philosophy of restoring a guitar, like a work of art.

So how does the fuel-injected Dino perform? "We've only taken it up to 5000rpm on the rolling road so far, yet the torque is absolutely flat from 2000rpm to 5000rpm. I'm hoping we can take it up to the limit and still keep it fairly flat." More fine-tuning on the rolling road is planned. On the day of our photo shoot, the V6 wasn't pulling quite the way it should but we can confirm it sounds fantastic.

"I wanted to maintain the noise of the engine because that 2.4 V6 is the best-sounding Ferrari engine

What no carbs? Addition of modern injection makes the Dino fit for life in the fast lane of modern traffic







as far as I'm concerned. Everyone said, oh, put fuel injection on it and it's going to kill the noise. But it doesn't: it's superb."

Your correspondent can vouch for that. Strapped into the Dino, it's the deliciously wuffly 2418 cc V6 that dominates proceedings, with a character that's so different to most modern day engines. Big on drama, all whirring cams, with a deeply mechanical soundtrack, the V6 feels so much stronger than its official 180-190hp output suggests. There's clearly massive top end potential here to help you accommodate that breakfast in Paris/dinner in Monaco, yet at low speeds, the V6 is so smooth, responsive and keen to rev. It's real automotive theatre.

Today, with the engine still not fully sorted, the chance to explore the upper reaches of that vocal 8000rpm range on the track is resisted. But its ability to run smoothly in gruelling M25-style traffic is right on the money.

The driving experience is boosted by the superb feel and precision of the rebuilt gearbox with its dogleg first. The pedals are close together yet the driving





Sensational red leather cabin hints at the very high standards of guitar man Doug's restoration

position is fine. On its rebuilt suspension (2.4 models have an independent rear end) and rolling on lovely 14-inch Campagnolos (options when new), the Dino feels well planted and solid on the road. Only the vague overcentre response of the worm-and-roller steering mars the dynamic picture. Apparently, there's no real cure for that; you just have to live with it.

Despite the complete restoration and modern electronics, the Dino still needs a regular helping of TLC. "It's not like a modern car, you can't just jump into it and expect it to go without any attention," comments Doug. "You've got to change the oil every 3000 miles, do valve clearances every 6000, make sure the oil pressure is where it should be and all that stuff, because they do have a tendency to overheat as well."

And now the car's finished, how does he feel? "I really like it. When you stop at any petrol station, people will start talking about it – even people who don't know about cars – because it's such a pretty car. And it makes a great noise! I guess the fundamental reason I bought it is because I like stuff that looks nice. I'm really pleased with the way it's turned out."





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Ferrari 250 GT Lusso

The last of the 250 line, 250 GT Lusso was overtly sporting, yet clothed in one of the most beautiful bodies Pininfarina ever designed. This might just be our favourite road-going Ferrari of all time...

Words: Keith Bluemel Images: RM Sotheby's



errari's 250 GT Lusso was the very last model in the legendary 250 GT series in pure road car form. It made its debut at the 1962 Paris Salon and continued in production until the latter part of 1964. It could be viewed as a replacement for both the 250 GT Coupé, which had ceased production in late 1960, and the 'Lusso' street version of the 250 GT SWB Berlinetta, which was phased out of production in early 1963, as the 250 GT Lusso was coming on stream.

The masterfully elegant styling came from the pen of Pininfarina. The car won immediate acclaim for its harmonious lines and beautifully balanced proportions. It featured a front end design with a wide, low egg-crate grille, similar to that of the sibling 250 GT SWB Berlinetta, but with a more protuberant nose and an unusual three-piece bumper arrangement, which featured a curved horizontal section below the radiator grille and small vertical bumperettes cradling the side/indicator lights below the headlights. Between the side lights and the radiator grille were inbuilt circular driving/fog lights.

The bonnet featured a shallow raised centre section with a diamond mesh 'intake' with a chrome trim surround. This was actually just a styling detail, as there was no actual intake; the bonnet centre section merely needed to be raised to clear the carburettor air filter

housing. The front wing line curved over the wheelarches in a gentle arc that fell into the door panel, where it gradually faded into the flat surface. The rear wing line ran from the door shut line, skirting the base of the rear quarter glass, before falling in a sweeping curve into the recessed Kamm tail panel, which had a shallow aerodynamic lip to its upper edge, which was formed by the trailing edge of the boot lid.

The prototype of the series, chassis # 3849 GT (the car shown at the 1962 Paris Salon and also featured in the sales brochure for the model), had a small central vertical bar to the grille on the faux bonnet intake, 250 GT 2+2-style door handles, no driving/fog lights in the front panel, and separate lighting elements in the tail panel (circular reflectors, rear and indicator lights). In contrast, production cars had a plain diamond mesh to the faux bonnet intake, slimmer and more elegant door handles, and a large circular combination rear/indicator/reflector light unit on each side of the recessed tail panel. These lighting units were also used on the succeeding 275 GTB series of berlinettas. A three piece wrap around chrome plated bumper was fitted below the recessed tail panel, which had a pair of registration plate illumination lights on its lower edge. The cabin was a five-window design with very slim roof pillars, and the large





curved rear screen was at a shallow angle flowing into the boot line. The whole shape was a statement of sweeping elegance, with a hint of aggression from the competition model-derived radiator grille.

Production cars were constructed at the Scaglietti works in Modena with the chassis factory reference number 539/U. All were numbered in the odd chassis number road car sequence carrying a 'GT' suffix. During the production period of the model, a total of 350 examples were constructed in the chassis number range 3849 to 5955.

The bodies were made of steel with aluminium opening panels, and mounted on a 2400mm wheelbase tubular steel chassis The chassis construction was along similar lines to the 250 GT SWB Berlinetta: two large oval-section longitudinal members with cross-bracing, but with the engine mounted further forward in the frame to increase cabin space, and like their stablemates, they were available in right-hand or left-hand drive form.

Similarly the mechanical components, like suspension, brakes, and steering were to a similar specification to the 250 GT SWB - that is to say, the suspension was independent by coil springs and wishbones at the front, with a rigid rear end featuring semi-elliptic leaf springs and radius arms to locate the axle, and hydraulic shock absorbers all round. Four-wheel Dunlop disc brakes were fitted, with separate callipers to the rear discs for the cable-operated handbrake.

However, as the last of the 250 GT line, it took advantage of two notable rear suspension upgrades from the 250 GTO racer: a Watts linkage and concentric springs around the shock absorbers. These additions endowed the Lusso with exceptionally delicate handling and sure-footedness by Ferrari road car standards.

The engine was a derivation of the single overhead camshaft per bank 3.0-litre V12 Colombo 'short' block unit (factory type reference 168/U) with the outside-



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

FERRARI 250 GT LUSSO

ENGINE: 2953cc V12-cyl all-alloy SOHC per bank BORE X STROKE: 73mm × 58.8mm COMPRESSION RATIO:

FUEL SYSTEM:

Three Weber 36 DCS carbs POWER: 240hp @ 7500rpm 215lb ft (292Nm) @ 5500rpm TOROUF! TRANSMISSION: Four-speed manual, rear-wheel drive FRONT SUSPENSION: Wishbones, coil springs, telescopic dampers REAR SUSPENSION: Live axle, radius arms, semi-elliptic

springs, co-axial coil springs and telescopic dampers

BRAKES: Discs front and rear 185 x 15

DIMENSIONS: 4410mm (L), 1750mm (W), 1290m (H)

1020kg WEIGHT (DRY): TOP SPEED: 149mph 0-62MPH: 7.5 secs



FERRARI 250 GT LUSSO







SAMPLE AUCTION RESULTS (2017)

1964 250 GT Lusso. Brown with beige interior, £1.24 million 1964 250 GT Lusso. Black with red interior, £1.77 million

the-vee spark plug design. With a bore of 73mm and a 58.8mm and stroke, it had a capacity of 2953cc. It was fitted with a bank of three twin-choke Weber 36 DCS carburettors, with a twin coil and rear-of-engine-mounted distributors ignition system, to produce a claimed 240hp. The engine was coupled to a four-speed all-synchromesh gearbox, with final drive through a propshaft to the rigid rear axle, for which

100 m / 20 m / 2

two alternative ratios were available.

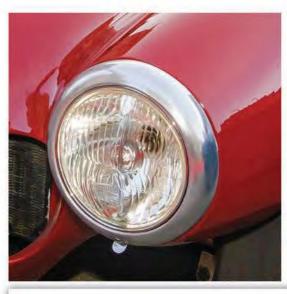
The interior was trimmed in leather with a pair of deep bucket seats for the two occupants, behind which there was a luggage platform with leather straps, featuring a diamond quilted covering, which finished at the top of the vertical panel where it met the rear parcel shelf. The instrument layout was unusual in that the two main dials, the speedometer and the rev counter, were housed in a pair of large circular binnacles which protruded from the top centre of the dashboard, and were angled towards the driver. Supplementary gauges were placed in a horizontal panel directly in front of the elegant wood-rimmed aluminium steering wheel.

SPECIAL BODIES & RACERS

In 1963 a 250 GTO, chassis # 4713 GT, was constructed with an all-aluminium body based on the 250 GT Lusso's styling, albeit with a GTO-style nose section and a more pronounced rear spoiler. Four 330 LM berlinettas were built in a similar form during the same year.

Also in 1963, Battista Pininfarina had a special example built for himself on chassis # 4335 GT, which initially featured some subtle differences, like rectangular lever door handles, no quarter-light on the driver's door, driving lights in the front panel, tapering bonnet bulge with no faux intake, and a more pronounced lip to the Kamm tail. In the middle of 1963, this car was provided with a modified front end which was very similar to the upcoming 500 Superfast model, albeit with 400 SA-style wrap-around quarter-bumpers with vertical overriders. The headlights were recessed in the wings under Plexiglas covers, and

Unusual dashboard layout sees the speedometer and rev counter placed in the centre, angled at the driver







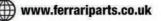
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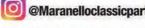
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small flush-mounted horizontal oval side/indicator lights were provided between the headlights and quarter-bumpers. The dash layout on this car was more conventional, with the pair of main instrument pods for the speedometer and rev counter mounted directly in front of the driver, as they had been on the Paris Salon prototype.

A further example, chassis # 4385 GT, was provided with special features at the request of the client, who had originally wanted a 250 GTO. The changes included a GTO-style nose section incorporating covered headlights, a six-carburettor set-up with open intake trumpets and high-lift camshafts.

Although the 250 GT Lusso was designed and built as a supremely elegant high performance road car, some owners did take them into competition. The model made appearances in the famous Sicilian road race, the Targa Florio, in 1964 and 1965, finishing 13th overall in the former year, while one achieved the same result in the Tour de France Auto in the same year.

BLU SERA BABY

The fabulous example featured on these pages is chassis #5537 GT, the 275th of 350 built. It's a US market car, which differs from European market cars slightly with its full red rear lights (instead of orange



indicator light sections) to comply with US legislation at the time. Fortunately this was the full extent of any changes for the US market at that time – it wasn't until a few years later that the performance of American Ferraris became stilted as they were forced to fit anti-smog equipment. In consequence, the US GT Lusso has performance equal to its European market counterparts.

It is understood to have been supplied originally in white with a red leather interior, a rather stark contrast. White tends to hide the elegance of the lines, so it's no surprise that at some stage in its life it was repainted in 'resale red'. When it was restored in 2010-2013, the then owner chose a period-correct, factory-available colour for the model, 'Blu Sera' (which translates as 'Evening Blue'), which really enhances the contours of the coachwork. At the same time, the interior was reupholstered in beige leather, producing a rich combination of elegance and luxury. At the same time, all mechanical components were detailed to concours standards, and with less than 200 miles recorded since completion of the restoration, it very much presents to the highest standard. It will be offered by RM Sotheby's at its Scottsdale auction in Arizona in January 2018 with an estimate of £1.35 to £1.65 million.





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Ferrari Racing Days

All the action from the Prancing Horses at Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit

Words by Peter Collins Images by Peter Collins and Michael Ward



errari Racing Days is the title given to exclusive Ferrari events, one each held in several different countries throughout the world, where various racing championships for current Ferraris reach their climax. The overall winner is decided in races at a 'Finals' year-end meeting.

There are four constituent parts to these weekends. In no particular order, they are demonstrations of Grand Prix Ferraris from

the last 20 years, demonstrations of FXX cars (more on that later), national clubs and private owners' displays of road Ferraris on the track, and Ferrari championship race rounds. Two championships run concurrently throughout the season under the heading of Ferrari Challenge for 488 Challenge cars. These are the Trofeo Pirelli, which also includes the 458 Challenge EVO, a separate class for these cars and the Coppa Shell.

After a brief free practice first thing in the

effectively chased away by the very lucky Corse Clienti participants in their Grand Prix cars dating back to the fabulous Michael Schumacher era. These were enough, on their own, to 'blow the blues away' – it was with great self-indulgence that we listened to the distinctive scream of F2002 V10s rising and falling all the way round the circuit. There was also an F2003-GA, plus an F2008. It was interesting to be able to

morning, the early grey clouds and cold were









compare the trademark scream of the earlier machine with the slightly deeper, gruffer V8 noises of more recent cars.

Then it was the turn of the XX Programme cars to enjoy two separate back-to-back hours on the track. This programme was started back in 2005 with the highly developed Enzo FXX car with 6.3 litres and 820hp. This was followed by the frontengined Fiorano-based 599XX which delivers 700hp and incorporates fans which suck air

from the fairings underneath the car and expel it out from the rear, thus creating a ground-effect – shades of the 1978 Brabham GP car and Chaparral 2J. The latest weapon to emerge from the XX armoury debuted at the end of the 2014 season and is based on the LaFerrari, complete with KERS assist from an electric motor. It's titled the FXX K and delivers 1050hp, with 860hp from the internal combustion engine and a supplementary 190hp from the electric

motor. This was the first time these cars had been seen at Silverstone.

Clients and participants of this programme get to be part of Ferrari's test and development team and are often called to be involved in exclusive sessions well away from the public's gaze, but here at Silverstone they were out, not only enjoying themselves, but demonstrating these magnificent machines on the Grand Prix Circuit.

These Racing Days are also a chance for



various national Ferrari Clubs to get together and for owners to display their cars and take them out on to the track. A long stream of Prancing Horse models were led by a LaFerrari and covered pretty well all the models to have emerged from the hallowed portals on the Abetone Road in Maranello over the last 20 years or so, with the added odd example from earlier eras. On show in the paddock were the LaFerrari Aperta and the latest 812 Superfast, amongst the rest of the current Ferrari line-up.

Last, but certainly not least, the combatants taking part in the Trofeo Pirelli and Coppa Shell races took to the track. In the Pirelli race on Saturday, the lead was close-fought with winners being Daniele Di Amato from Philipp Baron, with Chris Froggat taking Pirelli Am. Henry Hassid was followed in by Johnny Laursen in the Coppa Shell with Manuela Gostner taking the Ladies Cup. On Sunday, the Pirelli winner was Philipp Baron with Froggat again in Am. The Coppa Shell was a Hassid benefit once again, with the runner-up Erich Prinoth, whilst Gostner took the Ladies prize again after an aggressive drive.













CLUB ITALIA

REPORTS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND ITALIAN CAR CLUBS

Gran Premio Nuvolari

A superb memorial run through some fabulous roads, starting at Tazio Nuvolari's home town of Mantova

Words & images: Peter Collins

azio Nuvolari, the man who many still consider to be the greatest racing driver the world has ever seen, sadly died on 11 August 1953 and was mourned throughout Italy, if not the world. As a means of continuing his memory, the organisers of the Mille Miglia in Brescia decided that a special prize in his name should be awarded to those who completed the section from Cremona to Brescia through Tazio's home town of Mantova, the fastest. They even altered the route of

the Mille Miglia specially to pass through the city. These roads crossed the flat Po Valley and were mostly straight. Thus, from 1954 until the demise of the event in 1957, it was possible to see the actual speeds achieved by the top three cars as they travelled over those last 135km.

And they were staggering. 1954's winner Ascari, in a Lancia D24, took just over 44 minutes, equating to an average speed of 112mph. This was totally eclipsed in 1955 by Stirling Moss with 39 minutes 54 Ferrari 750 Monza of Tabacchi and Daganello in the thunderstorms (below); drier for Lancia Paganelli Sport (opposite page bottom)



seconds (123.4mph). An often-overlooked statistic is that this was bettered, in 1957, by Olivier Gendebien's 39 minutes 43 seconds (123.9mph) – and that was in a GT car (the factory breathed-on 250 GT Tour de France)! These figures still leave one reeling, especially considering how narrow and in what a dire state the roads were at that time.

Today, of course, such speeds will never be repeated, but Gran Premio Nuvolari has been resurrected as a round of the FIA Regularity Championship. Superbly organised by the Automobile Club Mantova and Museo Nuvolari, a huge entry of well over 300 cars took the start this year in Centro Storico Mantova. From there, the three-day, 1000km event headed south to Modena, where a few of the 85 regularity tests were held at the race circuit.

The route then turned east heading through the dense traffic and urban areas towards the south of Bologna, when at last open countryside and roads were reached and the foothills of the Apennines beckoned for a few tests before heading to the finish of the first day at Rimini.

Saturday was the longest day: a 439km run through the Umbrian hills to Siena via Arezzo and returning via a different route. Whilst Friday had been warm and dry, the sky was black and low, obscuring the hilltops, and the rain was torrential at times. The clouds eventually lifted and a dry run back to Rimini allowed some respite for those who had become totally drenched during the morning. Throughout the day, there were regularity sections, often cleverly located on quiet bypassed original roads to give a period feel.

Starting out from Rimini on Sunday morning, the 282km run to the finish in Mantova went via Forli and Ferrara over much of the Mille Miglia route in the reverse direction. Large crowds turned out to watch the wonderful cavalcade pass through – which could take over three hours from first car to last.

The entry was run in chronological order with the oldest cars first, led by the OM 665 Superba of M & M Hanning. A huge variety of makes and models followed: Alfa Romeo, Fiat, Ferrari, Maserati and Lancia and many more.

The low cloud, torrential rain and thunderstorms through the Umbrian hills presented a serious challenge to those brave enough to continue without weather equipment of any sort. The adventurous pairing of E Tabacchi and N Deganello in their Ferrari 750 Monza enjoyed the relief of short, straight pieces of road south of Urbino and remained soaked but cheerful throughout, whereas Miki Biasion had the luxury of a roof as he drove his gorgeous white Alfa 1900 Super Sprint Coupe.

Quality was to be seen throughout the list of participants. FCA Heritage brought a lovely Lancia Aurelia B20 crewed by Roberto Giolito and ex-Fiat Rally and Ferrari Grand Prix team manager, Daniele Audetto. With a 1972 cut-off point, the scope of the entry was huge and virtually the last, but certainly not least, car was the Fiat 124 Abarth Spider of W Fessl and W Artacker.

It was all a worthy tribute to the man in the yellow jersey and certainly not humbled by the current Mille Miglia which seems to be the event against which all others of this type are judged and which it mirrors in so many ways.









TEAM CARS

REPORTS ON OUR OWN CARS RUNNING ON THE EDITORIAL FLEET

MICHAEL WARD

ALFA ROMO MITO 170 CLOVERLEAF

e had always wanted another Mito, having previously owned two versions: a 1.6 Lusso and a 1.3 JTDm Veloce. Both cars were superb and ran without any major issues, as well as being great to drive.

However, as most of the trips in the Auto Italia household are done in the trusty but unexciting Doblo or the fun and frugal Panda, it was time to satisfy the inner petrolhead and get a petrol turbo Mito as our next car.

That sounds fairly straightforward but when you add in several exacting criteria, the choices soon narrow. We wanted a Tornado blue, Mito 1.4 TB with 18-inch alloys, Blue&Me and no leather.

I put the feelers out with friends in the trade but pickings were slim. I even went to an Alfa main dealership – what a waste of time that was.



With a budget of around £7.5k they tried to get me in a 27k Mito diesel. No thanks!

We finally turned to that well known (but usually irritating) online auction site to see what kind of junk was on offer.

As luck would have it, a Tornado blue 2012 Mito Cloverleaf popped up. It was the exact spec with low mileage and looked the part. One major problem: it was in Stokeon-Trent. Now I don't have an issue with Stoke, it's just that we live in Bedfordshire.

After a moment of headscratching, rail tickets were bought and we found ourselves Northbound at Milton Keynes train station the next day.

Arriving at the car lot in Stoke, it was clear that the Mito ("the

purple one," as they described it) hadn't been moved for a few days. Dusty, with rusty discs and speckled with bird droppings, the car looked a tad sorry for itself.

Anyway it was wrangled off the forecourt and we found ourselves up the dual carriageway on the test drive. I have driven countless Mitos on launches, tests and of course my own cars so I know how they drive and what to look for.

This one was almost perfect. A couple of bodywork dings, no sign of a cambelt service (even though it was five years old) and a grumbling rear bearing were all I could find.

It was slightly above our budget but it ticked the boxes so we bought it and drove it home.







The very next day, we then drove it to North Devon to join the Editor for a photoshoot with the Giulia Veloce he had on test. Quite a baptism of miles but the car ate them up and performed impeccably.

Because I don't actually trust the service histories on second-hand cars, I booked the car in with Jamie Porter's Alfaworkshop for a full service, cambelt, bearing change and inspection.

Start/Stop wasn't working but that may have been due to the battery being old – no real issue as Start/Stop is a pain anyway.

Having driven the car now for a few months, and as winter is not the time to have a weak battery, we had a new OE battery and all four tyres replaced with Pirelli P Zeros at Torque Automotive in Bedford.

PHIL WARD

ALFA ROMEO GT 3.2 V6

hen Alfa Romeo decided to abandon the legendary Busso V6 and follow the GM route with the new 159, it unwittingly entered a blind alley. While the 159 was a handsome machine, it lacked Italian brio in the engine department. This essential ingredient did not reappear until the Giulia QV arrived, save for a brief flirtation with the 159's excellent Italian 1.8 TBi, a case of little too late. In the meantime many 156 owners defected to BMW and Audi for their V6 fix.

I have owned several petrol and diesel versions of the 156 and eventually became hooked on the V6s, Sportwagons in particular. What a great driver's car they are. The sweet 2.5 V6 mated to the 6-speed gearbox is a sheer delight, the handling is nimble and the ride is comfortable on 16-inch wheels. So why change to a GT?

The supply of low-mileage V6 Sportwagons has gradually diminished. There are still some saloons about but most of them seem to be the lateregistered Australian or Malaysian imports, and either the less attractive Q-System or Selespeed versions. Given that they are mostly 2002/03 cars registered in or after 2006 they are penalised by exorbitant road tax,

currently £535. Not fair!

The V6 Sportwagons look dated now and the UK didn't receive the facelifted version, the model being dropped from the range in 2003. I believe that other markets had facelifted V6s; I know they were sold in South Africa and there are rumours of one example in Ireland.

So, having piled on a good number of glorious miles in my Sportwagon, it's time to pass it on while it is still in good condition. What to replace it with? Being hooked on the Busso V6, the choices would have to be a 156 GTA, 147 GTA, 166 TI, GTV 3.0-litre or GT 3.2. I need rear space so the GTV

was out. The 166 TI has always been rare and they seldom come up for sale, the owners preferring to hang on to them – and why not! The 156 GTA is expensive and there are some hard-used cars about, and with well over 100k miles on them. The 147 is too harsh and wayward for my tastes. So I opted for a GT.

There are still some GTs around with low mileage, although they justifiably carry a price premium, but not as high as a GTA. It had to be a 2005 car to avoid the tax hike and preferably bright blue metallic. This is a rare colour and when one came up on eBay it looked promising. However,

research revealed that it had had a top end rebuild because it had snapped the cambelt and the MOT history (available on line at www.gov.uk) showed lots of advisories. Clearly the owner was not paying attention to the servicing.

I eventually found this red car on PistonHeads. It had decent mileage and a superb service history, with both cambelt and clutch recently replaced. As a bonus it has new GTA wheels with Pirelli P Zeros, which suit the car very well. I am still 'bonding' with the car and have not yet covered many miles. On face value it drives very well and appears to have been very well looked after. Time will tell.







COLLECTORS' GUIDE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INVESTING IN A TOP END CLASSIC

Magic Mistral

Rarity and exceptional beauty have made the Mistral a highly sought-after collector car. But what lies underneath, and what should you pay for one today?







occasion, most notably with the AC 428.

While Frua had a workshop and was capable of manufacturing on a small scale, Alfieri and Maserati had greater ambitions and therefore needed to find coachbuilders with greater capacity. Having already contracted Vignale to make the bodies for the Quattroporte, they looked further afield to find a suitable contractor to build the Mistral. In the end, they settled on Maggiora in Turin to build the bodies, which were then returned to Modena to be trimmed at Officine Padane before arriving at the Maserati factory for mechanical assembly and completion.

The engine for the Mistral was the straight-six twincam unit that had been the mainstay of Maserati production since the launch of the 3500GT. It had evolved in detail over the years, most notably with the addition of Lucas mechanical fuel injection, and for the Mistral it had a slightly larger 3.7-litre capacity by means of increasing the stroke. Output was quoted as 245hp at 5500rpm and maximum speed was 150mph.

Following Maserati tradition, the gearbox was a fivespeed ZF unit fitted behind the engine, with a Salisbury live axle at the rear. On the prototype, the rear suspension used coil springs and a Watts linkage but for production this soon reverted to simpler semielliptic leaves. Interestingly, the chassis brackets for the Watts linkage can be viewed on early cars even though they were never used. The front suspension used a version of the Alford and Alder double-wishbone system that was again carried over from the 3500GT and with a Burman recirculating ball steering box.

The interior of the Mistral offered a much more upto-date experience. The angle of the steering wheel, which was now adjustable for reach, as well as the more sumptuous seats and panoramic dashboard, immediately gave the impression that this was a thoroughly modern machine.

During 1964, with the Coupe now on the market, Maserati asked Frua to design a convertible version. In order to achieve this, Coupe chassis were removed from the production line and new rear bodywork was fitted, made of steel. This very unusual move means that, at the base of the sills, the Mistral Spyder body has a riveted joint where the aluminium front and the steel rear meet. In addition, to make room for the hood in its lowered position, the inner wheelarches at the rear were roughly beaten inwards, giving a roughness to the detail which confounds restorers to this day. It was a year after the Coupe that the Spyder was launched.

Mechanically, the Spyder was similar to the Coupe, though initially offered with the original 3.5-litre engine



MASERATI MISTRAL COLLECTORS' GUIDE











TYPICAL PRICES

 Project
 Average
 Excellent
 Concours

 Coupe
 £70,000
 £100,000
 £200,000
 £250,000

 Spyder
 £250,000
 £400,000
 £600,000
 £700,000

capacity. It appears from the chassis numbering system that quite a few 3.5-litre versions of the Spyder were made but current thinking from Maserati is that they were almost all 3.7-litre.

In 1966, the Mistral underwent some revisions mechanically. The engine size was uprated to 4.0 litres by means of an increase in bore as well as stroke and the cylinder head used larger inlet valves to make the most of this increase in capacity. Output rose by a modest 10hp but torque increased considerably. This was to be the final revision of this glorious engine and Alfieri took the opportunity to address one of its few criticisms. The original design used a fixed intermediate gear, set above the crankshaft, which in turn drove the timing chain to the camshafts. The use of a gear was in some ways unnecessary and something of a throwback to the racing gear drives of his past. On the road it created a distinctive clacking noise, especially when cold. For the 4.0-litre, he modified the gear to include an external bracket, which could be used to adjust the mesh of the gear to quieten it. In truth, it only partially worked but it is a great way to spot a 4.0-litre engine.

During this round of revisions, the ZF gearbox was updated from the S₅-17 version to the new S₅-20, which while still a five-speed unit, had much improved





change quality. It was easy to distinguish from the earlier one because the lever now protruded centrally rather than on the left side of the box. In addition, new wheels were offered to make the most of more modern tyre sizes. Early cars had 16-inch Borrani wire wheels using 185-section tyres (the same as the 3500GT). Later 4.0-litre cars used 15-inch Borrani wires which were wider to go with 205-section Pirelli CN72s. The brakes, which were Girling discs all round, were changed in detail to fit the smaller wheel diameter. Finally, the dashboard instruments were updated from Jaeger mechanical type to Smiths electronic, similar to those fitted in the Quattroporte.

The Mistral continued in production throughout the 1960s. While the total output of 828 Coupes and 120 Spyders may not sound too impressive, this has to be taken in the context of Maserati's prodigious other output during those glory years. By 1968 it was offering the newer Ghibli, Mexico and Indy as well as the traditional Quattroporte, Sebring and Mistral. It took the arrival of Citroen management to point out the economics of making too many different models and production promptly finished in mid-1969. Even at the end it was still possible to buy a 3.7-litre or 4.0-litre engine with either Coupe or Spyder. There was an alloy wheel option (similar in style to the Ghibli's) and

a hardtop available for the Spyder. This was Maserati at its most diverse.

DRIVING IMPRESSIONS

The dominating factor when first driving a Mistral is the fuel injection system. It has a cold start choke lever which must be slid fully open. Turn on the ignition and the fuel pump (mounted in the right-hand inner front wing) wheezes and buzzes, priming the system. Crank without pumping the throttle and it will start almost immediately. But then the work starts, reducing the amount of choke gradually to stop the engine over-fuelling while still keeping it running. This requires patience; these would make terrible getaway cars as it is not easy to drive away until the choke is fully off. It is true that this system had its problems when new and many cars were converted to a bank of DCOE Webers in period. This is a great shame as the injection system offers more power and flexibility than carburettors and with a little help from modern technology, can be made completely reliable.

Once warmed a little, the driving experience is then easy. While Mistrals aren't as light in feel as you might expect, they can be hustled along country lanes in a spirited way. The steering on earlier cars is light and easy but the combination of wider tyres with smaller

MASERATI MISTRAL COLLECTORS' GUIDE







TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

MASERATI MISTRAL

ENGINE: Six-cylinder DOHC CAPACITY: 3692cc / 4014cc 86mm x 106mm / 88mm x 110mm BORE X STROKE COMPRESSION RATIO: 8.6:1 / 8.8:1 FUEL SYSTEM: Lucas mechanical injection **POWER** 245hp @ 5500rpm / 255hp @ 5500rpm TORQUE: 259lb ft @ 4000rpm / 283lb ft @ 4000rpm TRANSMISSION: Five-speed ZF manual, rear-wheel drive Independent, coil springs, telescopic dampers, anti-roll bar (front); live axle, SUSPENSION: semi-elliptic leaf springs, telescopic dampers, anti-roll bar (rear) BRAKES. Girling hydraulic discs all round STEERING: Recirculating ball WHEELS: Borrani wires 6x16 (fr) 6.5x15 (r) 185 x 16 (fr) 205 x 15 (r) KERB WEIGHT: 1300kg 0-62MPH: 7.5sec / 7.2sec MAX SPEED: 150mph / 158mph

steering wheels on later ones means that the effort required at parking speeds is high. There was never a power assistance option. The brakes are twin-circuit and servo-assisted and powerful in use.

Maserati's DNA is refined high-speed touring, and Mistrals are no exception. Although there was a choice of axle ratio when new, the gearing is always quite high and motorway cruising is effortless. At higher speeds, the engine hums contentedly and the steering feels relaxed. This is definitely a car you could drive all day.

There is little difference on paper in terms of performance between the 3.7 and 4.0-litre cars, but on the road the 4.0-litre feels far quicker with its huge reserves of torque. This was never a high-revving engine but there is no need to go even close to the 5500rpm limit and yet still make very brisk progress.

Surprisingly, there is little difference in feel when driving the Spyder. Manufacturers of new convertibles could learn something from Alfieri and Frua as there is very little scuttle shake. The only downsides of the Spyder are that rear visibility is affected with the hood raised and there is an inevitable increase in wind noise.

COST AND VALUE ANALYSIS

In 1965, a Mistral Coupe like the featured car cost £5300 in the UK. This was a staggering amount of

money at the time and predictably only 23 cars were sold here. The Spyder fared better proportionately, with 13 cars finding UK buyers. This means that the Mistral was always extremely rare with the choice of cars for sale very limited.

Being such an obscurity, even by Maserati standards, meant that there was also very little demand and they soon descended into the exotic car poverty trap where proper restoration was prohibitive because of low values when finished. Quite a few spent the 1970s and early 1980s locked away in garages – too beautiful to scrap, too expensive to restore – but as with the whole classic car market, the late 1980s boom provided some respite from this downward spiral. Coupes rose to the heady heights of £60,000 and one particular Spyderd sold at auction for a record price of £208,000 in 1989. At that time, of the three Maserati Spyders (3500GT, Mistral and Ghibli), the Mistral was the most valuable, but today it is the least.

Throughout the world, garage doors were opened and Mistral projects were wheeled out to begin restorations. The enormous difference in value between Coupe and Spyder created a demand for coachbuilders to chop Coupe roofs, especially if a full restoration was planned anyway. Because of the way the Spyder was built in the first place, it is













possible to convert a coupe completely accurately and these cars can be at least as good as an original. The only difference is their value, with conversions trailing the values of original Spyders by around 25 per cent. It is easy to tell because the chassis number of a genuine Spyder will be an odd number, whereas that of a Coupe is even.

Of course, no sooner had this market established itself than it crashed. I watched as one particular Spyder changed hands half a dozen times in the early 1990s, each time for tens of thousands less than the time before. By the end it was £27,000.

world, restorations stopped and Mistrals were wheeled back into garages. It took another decade for the market to re-establish itself and restorers to be given the opportunity to bring these cars back to their former glory. Spyders recovered first, along with the converted cars, but Coupe restorations to a high standard are still rare. However, steady increases in values have been seen for the last few years. Today a 4.0-litre original Spyder could make £700,000 in excellent condition and a Coupe £250,000. The 4.0-litre is slightly more desirable to most and commands a 10 per cent premium over the smaller engine. But

Frua's design has aged gracefully. Only 23 righthand drive coupes were made, making this one of the rarest Maseratis of all





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membership@alfaclubsa.org.au

Abarthisti

www.abarthisti.co.uk www.abarthforum.co.uk

Abarth Owners Club

On-line club for owners, fans and enthusiasts of the Abarth brand www.abarthownersclub.com

De Tomaso UK Drivers' Club

www.detomasodc.co.uk

Ferrari Owners' Club

Cavallino House, 2 Church Way, Whittlebury, Northamptonshire, NN12 8XS gary.dearn@ferrariownersclub.co.uk www.ferrariownersclub.co.uk

Fiat Motor Club GB

The original UK club for owners of all Fiat models. membership@fiatmotorclubgb.co.uk; editor@fiatmotorclubgb.co.uk; press-officer is gavin@fiatmotorclubgb.co.uk chairman is b.stigant@ntlworld.com

www.fiatmotorclubgb.co.uk

Fiat Club America

www.fiatclubamerica.com

Fiat Club Africa

www.fiatclub.co.za

Fiat Club of New South Wales

www.fiatclub.com.au

Fiat Club of Victoria

www.fiatclub.org.au

Fiat & Lancia Club of Western Australia

www.fiatlancia.org.au

Fiat 500 Club

www.fiat5ooclub.org.uk

Fiat 500 Enthusiasts Club GB

www.fiat5ooenthusiasts.co.uk

Sporting Fiats Club

www.sportingfiatsclub.com

Fiat Barchetta UK Owners' Club

www.fiatbarchetta.com

Fiat Forum

www.fiatforum.com

Fiat Multipla Owners' Club

www.multiplaowners.co.uk

Fiat Cinquecento & Seicento

www.clubcento.co.uk

Fiat X1/9 Owners' Club

www.x1-gownersclub.org.uk

Fiat 127 Forum

www.fiat127.com

Fiat 131 Mirafiori Forum

www.131mirafiori.com

The Fiat Coupe Club UK

www.fccuk.org

Fiat Punto Forum

www.puntosports.co.uk

The Other Dino (Fiat)

Brian1Boxall@btinternet.com

Fiat Scotland

Scotland's dedicated Fiat community www.fiat-scotland.com

Lamborghini Club UK

Contact: Lynne Bull, Membership Secretary, Barnside, Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 oAU Lynne@Lamborghiniclub.co.uk www.lamborghiniclub.co.uk

Lancia Motor Club GB

Contact: Sarah Heath-Brook 31 Creffield Road, Colchester, CO3 3HY membership@lanciamc.co.uk

Lancia Montecarlo Consortium

www.montecarlo.org.uk

International Association of Lancia

Clubs www.viva-lancia.com

Club LanciaSport

www.lanciasport.com

Stratos Enthusiasts Club

www.stratosec.com

Maserati Club

Contact: Dave Smith admin@maseraticlub.co.uk www.maseraticlub.co.uk

Sports Maserati Club

Contact: Matthew Yates www.sportsmaserati.com

Northern Ireland Italian Motor Club

www.niimc.net

Italian AutoMoto Club

www.italian Auto Moto Club.co.uk

Scuderia Italian Car Club South Australia

www.scuderiaitaliancarclub.asn.au

DIARY DATES 2018

January 11-14

Autosport International

NEC Birmingham

www.autosportinternational.com

II February 1-4

Automotoretro

Turin – Lingotto Fiera www.automotoretro.it

II February 7-11

Rétromobile

Porte de Versailles, Paris www.retromobile.com

February 15-18

London Classic Car Show,

ExCeL London

thelondonclassiccarshow.co.uk



February 23-25

Race Retro

Stoneleigh

www.raceretro.com

March 17-18

Goodwood 76th Members' Meeting Goodood Circuit, Chichester www.goodwood.com

March 30-April 2

Horsham Piazza Italia

Italian Car & Bike Festival

Horsham, Surrey www.horshampiazzaitalia.co.uk

April 7

Alton Italian Car Day

Departure Lounge Café, Hampshire GU34 4BH

April 27-29

Ferrari Racing Days

Silverstone circuit

www.silverstone.co.uk

May 5

Auto Italia Italian Car Day

Brooklands, Surrey

Mav 13

Classics at the Villa

Villa Scalabrini

Shenley, WD7 9BB

www.classicsatthevilla.com

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

II May 25-27

Concorso d'Eleganza

Villa d'Este

Lake Como, Italy

concorsodeleganzavilladeste.com

May 20

Scottish Italian Car and Bike Day

Cairnie Fruit Farm,

Cupar, Fife

June 2

Alton Italian Car Day

Departure Lounge Café, Alton, Hampshire

GU34 4BH

II June 29-30 & July 1 23rd Vernasca Silver Flag

Classic car hillclimb

www.vernascasilverflag.it

July 12-15

Goodwood Festival of Speed

Chichester, Sussex www.goodwood.com

July 20-22

Silverstone Classic 2018

www.silverstoneclassic.com



July 29

Supercar Sunday

Brooklands

www.auto-italia.net

August 4-5

Beaulieu Supercar Weekend

National Motor Museum, Hampshire

www.beaulieu.co.uk

September 1-2 (TBC)
Beaulieu International Autojumble
National Motor Museum, Hampshire

www.beaulieu.co.uk September 7-9

Goodwood Revival

Chichester, Sussex

www.goodwood.com October 14

Autumn Motorsport Festival

Brooklands, Surrey

www.auto-italia.net

Auto e Moto d'Epoca 2018

Padova, Italy

autoemotodepoca.com





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ALFA ROMEO



Alfa Romeo 105 Guilia Spider 1600 Boat tail. 1969, 7580 miles, red. Ground up bare metal restoration, completely rebuilt engine, clutch, gearbox, brakes and suspension, refurbished brakes, new hood and hood cover, new correct rubber mats passenger compartment and boot, seats recovered, period Blaupunkt radio (it works!). Bodywork restoration in Poland, mechanical, final painting and detail restoration completed by Alfa Workshop September '17, MOT till May '18, must be viewed to appreciate the quality of restoration, £36,000 ono. The car is in storage in S Cambridgeshire. Email: David on dejpepper@btinternet.com. A264/016



1991 Alfa Spider S4. 53,502 miles, white, bodywork and alloys in excellent condition. The interior is unmarked with the original seats showing no wear to the Alcantara, it has the original hood and unmarked hardtop. Garaged all year round, it has been serviced regardless of cost and is in superb mechanical condition. There is a full history file with the car, it is an AROC Concours winner and was featured in a road test in Auto Italia, edition 186, £15,995. Tel: 07711 732844. A262/016



1987 Alfa Spider. 203,063 miles, black, 2 litre, RHD, gearbox manual. Super fun and pokey to drive, this car handles like a dream! Bodywork is in great shape, soft top also, there is a small split in the driver's seat. We have some history, but not a lot, I think we are the 7th owners. The car is in Somerset, and we are selling because we have lost our storage, £8250 ovno. Email: houseofabulous@gmail.com.



1991 Alfa Romeo Spider S4 automatic. LHD, US specification, 30,500 miles, car is in classic red /black cloth hood, Alcantara interior/black carpets, fully loaded, 3 speed automatic, driver air bag, a/c, pwr steering, ABS, pwr windows, car is in beautiful condition and is admired wherever it goes, has full MOT thru 2018. This Spider is a rarity, £15,900, can be viewed in London. Email: marcolupi100@gmail.com. A264/010



Alfa Romeo 75 3.0 V6 Cloverleaf. '90 H-reg, long MOT with comprehensive history. Genuine Cloverleaf, correctly registered with the DVLA by Mangoletsi. New cambelt and Eibach rear springs, refurbished rear brake calipers plus Koni shocks all round. Drives great and sounds amazing. Almost a four door SZ-grab a bargain while you still can. For sale by AROC member, this car is on the 75 Register, £9995. Tel: 07872 911678. Email: chris.cousins@hotmail.co.uk. A264/041



1992 Alfa Romeo 75 TS limited edition. 100K, red. Sadly it's time to let go of our lovely Alfa 75 rare ltd edition. This car has been loved and serviced throughout its life, and benefits from Recaro seats and sunroof, very clean inside and out, £6000. Tel: 01279 723189 for viewing. A264/045



1971 Alfa Berlina 1750. 61,450 miles, red. Original rare Alfa, lovely drive, smooth and reliable, excellent condition, original Pioneer radio, original carpets. I have lots of bills and history on the car, 5 speed gearbox, new Koni classic dampers. MOT June 2018 - no advisories. Tyres all good, headlining redone, since I have had the car I have had considerable work done to it to bring it up to a high standard: battery replaced, fuel pipes replaced, handbrake cables replaced, rear anti roll bar replaced, water pump and hoses replaced. There are very few original RHD of these left, they are undervalued at present but will assuredly become collectible due to their rarity and good looks. Original logbook goes back to January 1971, I am I believe the 5th owner, I am a member of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club. £8995 ovno, due to the condition and rarity of this car I think this is a very fair price as there are so few of these cars still around Fmail: richarddcruzemail@gmail.com.



Alfa Romeo 75 Twin Spark LE. 1992 105,000 miles, met black. Really great 75 Twin Spark LE with lovely, almost perfect, Recaro interior and really nice metallic paintwork. Benefiting from refurbished Speedlines and new tyres, a massive service by Jamie Porter at the Alfa Workshop including all oils and filters, brake fluid, discs and pads, distributor caps and leads and a good go through. It is now perfect and ready for next year's Alfa Club events! New Bosch battery and all electrics work including the sunroof, £3000 ono. A really nice, useable future classic Alfa. Tel: Ted Pearson, 07885 372439. Email: ted@mpi.ltd.uk. A264/017

Alfa Romeo GTV 2000 S3. 1985, red, 99,000 miles, renovation/spares/repair, £800. Tel: Martin, 01737 769887. Email: airmart@hotmail.co.uk. A264/047



1977 Alfetta 1.8. Giallo Piper, original 1977/S Alfetta 1.8 Saloon, one owner since new in August 1977. Always been garaged and well looked after, very low genuine mileage, 25,000 miles, with all MOTs as proof. Engine runs like new, totally original bodywork, which is in very good condition with some minor dents and the odd spot of rust, which has been treated, £13,000. Tel: 07880 688069. Email:

sales@prestigecarsagent.com. A264/044

2007 Alfa Romeo 147 1.6 Collezione. 48,000 miles, red, FSH, very good condition, lots of work done including cambelt, next MOT March '18. Full leather interior in good condition, 17" alloys, all work done at Alfa specialist since ownership. Some stone chips on bonnet which have turned into surface rust, £2200. Tel: 07568 373881. Email: ajholvey@msn.com (located in south east London). A264/048



Alfa Romeo 147 1.6 Lusso. 2002, g1,200 miles, Gabbiano Blue. Lots spent in my ownership and recently had: new AR front and rear discs and pads, new AR windscreen and wipers, AR cambelt kit and water pump (2K miles ago), top hat bushes, AC system recharged and serviced. Works perfectly, low mileage of c.g1,000, Lusso spec with leather (Comfort pack option), cruise control, 16" alloys, factory stereo, MOT'd until 25th April 2018, good condition for age and is clean, owned by enthusiast, £825 ono. Tel: James, 07766 821606. Email: hebdenhedgehog@gmail.com. A264/014



Alfa Romeo 147 GTA. Gabbiano Blue with black leather. 48,000 miles, 18" alloys, Scorpion GTA exhaust, Autodelta air filter system, fresh MOT and service, £8995 ovno. Tel: Tom, 07850 539117. A264/046



2006 Alfa Romeo 159 Lusso 2.2 JTS. 45,623 miles, Alfa Special Red, 2.2 petrol, owned from new, black leather interior, 18" alloys, multi CD player, new clutch and flywheel, discs and pads recently replaced. MOT until August 2018, excellent condition, £4700. Email: agarnett6o@gmail.com (Rochester, Kent). A264/039



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. A264/040



2012 Alfa Romeo 159 1750 Tbi Lusso. Last of the line, low mileage. Former Registrar's well cared for car in Alfa Red with dark grey leather, regularly serviced by trusted Alfa specialist, new cambelt last year. 33,000 miles only, MOT to January 2018, 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, £7750 ono. Email: hughalex@talktalk.net. A264/012



1998 Alfa Romeo GTV 3L V6 24v.

105,576 miles, red. Not only is this 3L Alfa extremely fun to drive, with its stunning red exterior and beautifully contrasting tan leather seats, it looks amazing too. It will be sold with service and MOT and it has recently had its engine rebuilt (both cylinder heads skimmed, pressure tested and all new valves in), as well as a new cambelt and water pump, £3599. Tel: Philip or Sarah at Quarmby Garage, 01484 652927. Email: sarah@quarmbygarage.co.uk. A264/038



Alfa 156 GTA. 2003, black and tan leather seats, Bose CD, sat nav, 66,000 miles, owned for last 11 years, service history, new MOT, one to keep, vgc, £7995. Tel: 07802 308147. A264/005



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. I'm happy to answer any other questions that you might have, for more information please call. Tel: Peter, 07880 550860. A264/015



1999 Alfa Romeo GTV 2.0 TS. 123,600 miles, metallic blue, service history, all MOTs since 2004, cambelt 3500 miles ago, mint grey cloth interior, recent oil service, maintained by Monza Sports Tuning using only genuine parts, good Pirelli tyres, rear spoiler in primer included, second car so little used. Tel: 07512 180323 (Sussex). A264/037





Alfa Romeo 166 2.0 Twinspark. 2005, 55 plate, metallic grey with black full leather interior, fully heated and electric seats, refurbished alloys with new Pirelli P Zero tyres, also original alloys come with car and some spare parts, immaculate condition inside and out, maintained to a very high level with a folder of invoices, fitted with a Ragazon twin exit rear section exhaust, this is not a sports exhaust it is a free flow part, sounds just like Alfa original exhaust, recent timing belt fitted at 98K, car now 104K, just had recent service, always use genuine Alfa oils and filters, all parts fitted to the car came from Alfa UK or Alfa shop, lots of history, too many details to list, £3200. Tel: Euan, 01382 775494 evenings or 07774 672757 daytime and leave a message. A264/002



2009 Alfa Romeo 159 2.4 Ti. 65,500 miles, red. Very pampered 159 2.4 Ti, with full service history, just had service, recent cambelt and water pump, pads front and rear, front end of the car was stripped and repainted to remove stone chips, and refitted with all new parts, has had a fortune spent, receipt for swirl flap removal, erg delete, bottom pulley, power steering reservoir and fluid upgrade, stage 2 remap, heated seats, Apple iPlay stereo, subframe stripped and undersealed, very regrettable sale, Alfa Romeo Owners Club owner. You won't find another like this, £7000 ono. Tel: Derek, 07861 292019. A264/053 2008 (58 plate) Alfa Romeo Brera S Prodrive. Special edition, certificate/car

number 50. Alfa Red, clean, mint and 'cared' for. Full Alfa main dealer yearly service history, with stamped book, 23,000 miles to date, one owner from new. Full red stitched black leather (including dashboard) interior, with Prodrive seat badging, garaged kept, Brera S book, current MOT to Sept 2018, £12,500 ono. Tel: Nick, 07747 193175. A264/049



Alfa Romeo 166. 3 litre, manual, grey and black leather trim, 120,000 with history, recent new alternator and clutch, 2 keys, MOT July '18, £2895. Tel: 07541 310419 (Spalding). A264/052



Alfa Romeo GT 3.2 V6. 2007, 50,300 miles, black. Well looked after low mileage example, good condition inside and out. All bills and past MOTs available, MOT until Jan '19, underseal reapplied Jan '16, new clutch May '17, four new tyres Aug '17, full annual service Nov '17, new front lower suspension arms and rear brake pads Dec '17. Kenwood DAB stereo with Bluetooth connectivity, compatible with iPhone and Android, original factory stereo included, £8000 ono. Tel: Danny, 07752 725712. Email: boss1944@outlook.com. A264/011



1995 Alfa GT JTDM tastefully Cloverleafed Coupe. 74,600 miles, Stromboli Grey, 3 previous owners, 18-in jetfin alloys, FASH, 2 keys, nice, clean reliable GT with sensible mods, new clutch in Jan + new rear discs and pads in July inc service and MOT. Autolusso chip to 18obhp, still good on fuel, big service last year at Autolusso inc belts, pump, air con, hand brake cables and all of the front suspension wishbones. It was also Waxoyled then, other mods were swirl flap delete, EGR blank off, remap, red silicone turbo hoses, stainless steel cat back exhaust. Impeccable service history, all receipts and bills, £3000. Tel: Ifor, 07887 688556. A264/058



1999 Alfa Romeo 916 GTV 2.0 TS Coupe. 117,724 miles, Rosso Red, supple black leather interior. Alfa radio, 6 CD autochanger, two new Pirelli P7 Cinturato, new exhausts, excellent history, all manuals and tax discs, 3 keys, new MOT. In good, clean, totally original condition throughout, one to treasure, runs and drives beautifully, £1600. New belts due. Tel: Steve, 07790 713878 (West Sussex). A264/057



2007 Alfa Romeo Brera SV JTS V6 Q4. Low mileage 57,849 silver car with black/grey leather interior and black/red signed Brera mats. In excellent condition, meticulously maintained with full service history, radio/CD etc, elegant 18-inch alloy wheels, panoramic glass roof with electric blind, MOT to October 2018 (this vehicle has MOT for life provided by Mangoletsi). AROC member sadly selling this powerful 4 wheel drive, beautiful car because going overseas, £6000 ono. Tel: 01353 664588.



2009 Alfa Romeo Mito 1.4TB Multi Air Veloce. 63,138 miles, metallic Etna Black, 155bhp. Excellent condition inside and out, much loved companion but company car forces sale. Last full service at 60,426 by Gonnella Brothers, service history, 8 months' MOT, next one due 0g/06/2018, electric windows, a/c, MP3 player, CD, Bluetooth, central locking, alarm, immobiliser, £3299. Tel: 07792 246239. A264/055



2014 Alfa 4C. 6000 miles, 8C red, purchased new December 2014. Has been used mainly as a show car hence the low mileage and excellent condition. The 4C is a pure raw sports car and great fun to drive, comes with a made to measure exterior cover, £45,000. Tel: Dave Taylor, 07905 011884. Email: david.taylor31@virgin.net. A264/054

FERRARI



1977 Ferrari 308 GTB. This 308, chassis no 21441, was originally Cooper Cars' (Leicestershire Ferrari dealer) demonstrator, it was converted to a race car in '98 and went on to win the Pirelli Ferrari Challenge in the hands of Robin Ward, now converted back to fast road spec, I recently purchased the car from Nick Cartwright Cars, however it is too uncomfortable for mel So is offered for sale at £55K, please phone for further details. Tel: Chris, 07860 395558. A264/021

Ferrari 308 GTB fibreglass. 1977, dry sump fibreglass car converted to race spec many years ago. Very quick car, would be competitive in the club series in the right hands, road registered. Tel: John, 0784 0420283 for more info. A264/018



1990 Ferrari 328 GTS with Crema hide interior, original factory alloy wheels which are in excellent condition. Manufactured in late 1989 and first registered in 1990 this is believed to be the last 328 GTS registered in UK. The car comes with many service receipts and manuals, has a comprehensive history from new and has been regularly serviced, June 2017 both clutch and cambelt replaced. The car is MOT'd and has 83,000 miles and I'm willing to sell at £59,950. Tel: Peter, 07850 027162. A264/024

Ferrari 328 GTB race car. Campaign in this year's Classic Series, ready for 2018, please call Robert for further details. Tel: 07802 638618. A264/023



Ferrari F430 Coupe. Ferrari Owners' Club member has a 2005 F430 coupe for sale having just covered 32,200 miles, car purchased from Bentley Manchester 3 years ago, last serviced 24 May 2017, MOT till May 2018. Rosso Corsa with Crema hide this is a beautiful example with excellent service history. Full factory tool kit, manuals and wallet, both keys, tracker, torch and battery conditioner, car located in the NW, priced to sell, £79,950. Tel: Tony, 07787 550288. A264/019











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Ferrari 348TS. 1993, UK car, RHD, front battery model, pristine condition, probably one of the best examples on the market, 33K miles, red with cream leather, totally original as Ferrari intended, no colour coded painted sills\text{sills\text{roof}} apart from sports exhaust (original Ferrari Challenge exhaust), but also comes with standard exhaust, owned over 12 years, low number of previous owners, garaged throughout ownership, full Ferrari dealer\specialist history, HPi clear fully matching numbers car, MOT. Email: amo36ocs@sky.com. A264/022

Ferrari 308 GTB. This is a car that will speak for itself, now 40 years old has lived in France, Monaco and East Preston in West Sussex in the last 9 years, has recently had a respray as some of the lacquer was peeling off, only 26,000 miles, it's left-hand drive. The passenger seat has a small split, overall a great motor, a 308 GTB LHD dry sump car, and 4 double Weber carburettors, been in the family for at least 30 years, not seen rain as far as we know for thirty years, £65,000. Email: amorra@tiscali.co.uk. A264/020



Ferrari 458 Italia. Selling my low mileage 458 Italia, 5400 miles only, stunning spec and immaculate condition throughout, £165,000. Email: dean@ reliableelevatorservices.co.uk. A264/032 Ferrari 550 Maranello. Selling my beloved 550 Maranello bue to relocation, first registered May 1997. Tour de France blue with cream interior, 32,000 miles, just serviced and MOT'd with Carrs Exeter. Tel: Keith, 07500 931355. Email: kjh550m@gmail.com. A264/033

FIAT



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). A264/007

LAMBORGHINI



Lamborghini Jarama S. LHD, very rare, metallic Bronze, new tan leather interior, diff/gearbox rebuilt, new chrome, rear lights resprayed, sports exhaust, build paperwork, fascinating history, £145,500. Tel: 07476 552398. A262/054



Lamborghini Espada. Rare auto, last RHD delivered, 1978, nice history, superb condition, rust free, perfect paint/interior and under bonnet detailing, s/s exhaust, including manual gearbox, p/x £145K. Tel: 07737 174200. A264/065

LANCIA



Lancia Appia S3 saloon 1963. Recent import from Italy, lovely body and beautiful grey cloth interior, runs beautifully. Nova paid and MOT'd but will need registering, £8000. Tel: 07798 797262. A264/061



1994 Lancia Delta Integrale Evo II. £41,000 ono, Lord Blue with tan/beige Alcantara interior (high back). Mechanically excellent with huge service history, MOT and original documentation. All recent work completed at Auto Integrale and NJS Pershore. Bodywork in fair condition with no rust, and recently detailed, interior in fair condition, air con disconnected but supplied with the car. Stored in a heated, dehumidified garage. Definitely a great value investment opportunity or a car you can just get out and enjoy! All questions answered, please call 07469 145123 for more info. Email: sjeffreys@gmail.com (Stratford upon Avon). A264/064

PARTS



Alfa Romeo GT Junior/105 series 14" original alloy wheels in nice condition with classic Dunlop CR65 tyres, size 5.50M, which have barely been used, 6550. Tel: 07812 411180. A264/060 Alfa Romeo 512 Nord engine. 2000cc, very good engine, £750. Tel: 07895



Alfa Giulietta Cloverleaf back box exhaust, year 2010, covered 45K miles, good condition, pick up only, £65. Tel: 07711 529403 (Bedford). A264/006

Alfa Romeo GTV 916 speedo and rev counter module, black, vgc, £50 ono. Tel: 01564 772714 (West Midlands). A264/050

Spares: Fiat 1500 cabriolet.

Variety of used parts including distributor, starter motor, rhd steering box and many other smaller items, offers. Tel: 01684 892906. A264/031

MISCELLANEOUS



Ferrari book. Piloti che Gente, by Enzo Ferrari. First edition 1984 limited edition book, one of 2500 prints in English, 250mm+300mm, 2.16 kg, 359 pages, full of his racing memories and photos, not to be confused with later editions, in mint condition with small Marenello Concessionaires sticker on inside front cover, £85 plus postage. Tel: 01275 332459. A264/028



Original manuals. Ferrari 400, Auto transmission Eng/Italian, perfect condition; parts catalogue, perfect condition; Ferrari 1948/63 op/maintenance vol 1, perfect; 400/400GT driver handbook; Ferrari 250 GT bonnet badge from chassis 0622 California Spider, ex Peter Collins. Tel: John, 07737 174200. A264/025



Fiat & Abarth 500 & 600 Colour Family Album. Hardback, very clean pages, great colour photos, history, rare book, excellent condition, only £12. Tel: 07399 359072. A264/008

Alfa Romeo Alfetta all models 1973-

81 Haynes workshop manual, v.clean,

£10 ono + postage. Tel: 01564 772714

Wanted: Espada S3 LHD. Will swap 4

clean, many new parts inc auto box,

exhaust, brakes, batt etc; plus Pro

Merc 230TE 1988 estate, low miles, very



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. A264/026

Maserati 3200GT owner's handbook

New, £20 ono plus p&p. SZ brochures and launch video offers. Tel: Alan, 01635 202521 (Berks). A264/009

Registration 'FF18 FFF'. New Ferrari on order? On retention for March 2018 registration, can be registered with new car as original number plate. Offers please to leebanno@yahoo.co.uk or tel: 07803 602587. A264/034

'F12 NUT'. Registration no. 'F12 NUT', E11,500. Email: frank@franknutt.co.uk. Tel: 07979 966509. A264/035

'AJC 355'. £5355. Email: aandccushing@ btinternet.com. A264/036

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Ferrari car brochures. Original Ferrari brochures, F40, BB512i, 400i automatic, 2-Mondial quattv, Mondial 8, 2 Maranello guides, cars from 1959 – La Ferrari 2000, Ferrari 1990. Very good condition, £235, incl P&P. Tel: 01275 332459. A264/027



Hand made retro style Ferrari steering wheel table. Measuring 450mm diameter x 530mm high, chrome centre, polished stainless steel spokes, solid wood rim. The table has been made to give the illusion of a floating steering wheel, price £335 plus shipping, call for details. Tel: 07564 637636. A264/066



Ferrari puzzle. Jigsaw, complete, featuring cutaway 1962 250 GTO 3757, suitable tabletop or wall hang, 72x51cm £40. Tel: 01635 521474 (Newbury). A264/059



(West Midlands). A264/051

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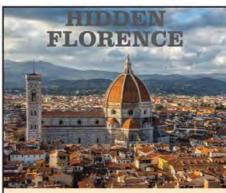
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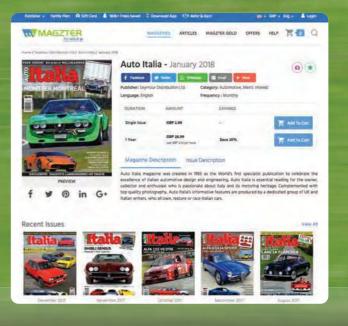








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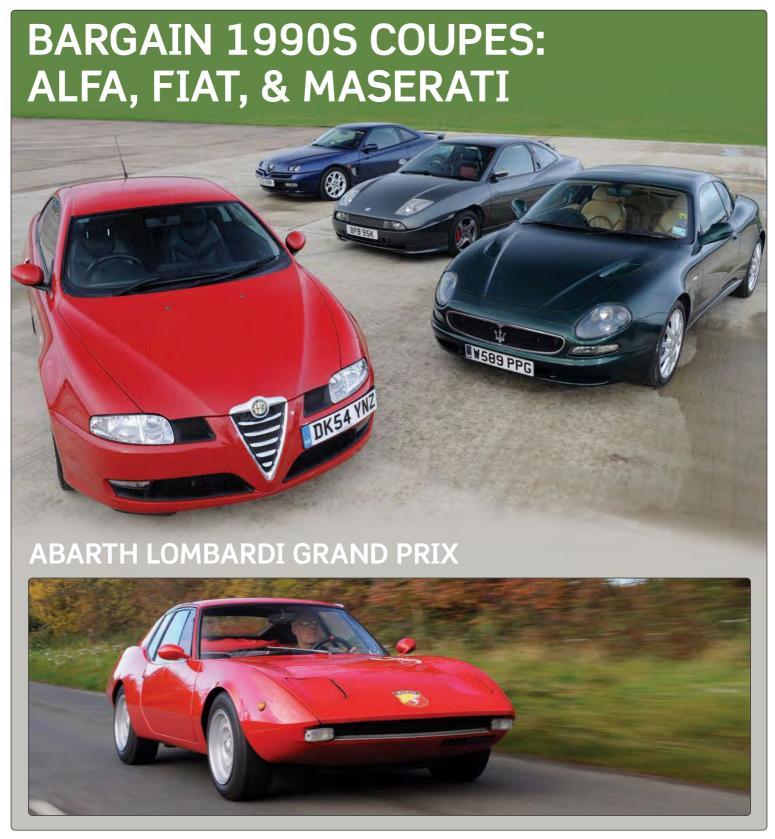
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OBSCURAT

CURIOSITIES FROM THE AMAZING WORLD OF ITALIAN CARS

AUTOZODIACO DAMACA

Story by Gary Axon

This pioneering crossover beach buggy was designed by Mr Pantera himself, Tom Tjaarda

hen a young builder called Mario Zodiaco casually popped into his local Bologna cinema in 1968 to watch the latest Hollywood blockbuster 'Il Caso Thomas Crown' (The Thomas Crown Affair), little did he know what an impact this film would have on his life.

Transfixed by the beach buggy in the film (a Canadian-built Hunter by Universal Fiberglas) which Steve McQueen enthusiastically threw around the sand dunes to impress his movie love interest, Fave Dunaway, Zodiaco dreamt of owning a buggy himself.

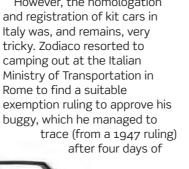
Bored of working for his father's construction business, Zodiaco took the bold step of starting his own small car dealer business, called All Cars, with a view to importing and building beach buggies from the USA.

He ordered a self-assembly DAC Deserter kit from the USA and wasted no time in building his buggy the moment it arrived. By September 1968 Zodiaco had completed

kit - the first beach buggy in Italy - and after some satisfying shakedown testing, he parked it outside his home in central Bologna, and the hordes of curious onlookers confirmed the buggy's potential to Zodiaco.

He asked Beppe Seragnoli, the owner of Mariver, a glassfibre sailing boat maker, to make two buggy bodies, using moulds taken from the Deserter. By May 1969 he had two cars and all necessary suppliers in place to start production. Autozodiaco was founded to make the cars, merging with All Cars to handle sales. Launched at the 1969 Turin Motor Show under the 'All Cars' banner, Italy's first beach buggy generated huge interest, plus a useful number of deposits.

However, the homologation





searching! In October 1969 he finally received the approval required to begin production, but now lacked the funding to set up a workshop.

Step forward a local wealthy playboy called Paolo Pazzaglia, who stumped up the money for a production facility in return for a 50 per cent stake in Autozodiaco. Pazzaglia turned out to be a conman, though, stealing the first production Autozodiaco buggy and trying to relaunch it under the AutoMirage name!

After losing his production base due to Pazzaglia's misdemeanours, Zodiaco contracted Giannini of Rome to begin assembly of the Autozodiaco Deserter. Further VW-based buggy models followed: the Squalo and California, along with the Skodabased Kirby and 225cc Tuareg off-road motorcycle. Quickly, however, Autozodiaco's monopoly on the buggy market evaporated, with new rivals appearing, including ATL, Puma, Greppi and Helvetia.

In late 1971, Zodiaco presented a totally new type of crossover buggy, the Damaca. This was

styled by the ex-Ghia and Pininfarina designer, Tom Tjaarda - better known for his 1966 Fiat 124 Spider, 1960 Innocenti 950 Spider and 1970s De Tomaso range, including the iconic Pantera. The Damaca blended a squarish look with more refined design elements, the rear clearly inspired by Tjaarda's Pantera, with Fiat 124 Coupe tail lights.

The unusual name, Damaca, came from a competition organised by the Italian motoring magazine Autosprint, won by Carlo Maddalena of Palermo, DA.MA.CA being a composition of DA.MA (by Maddalena) and CA

You could choose between a VW Type 3 1500cc or 1600cc engine, and it was sold exclusively through BMW's Italian dealer network from 1973 onwards, priced at an ambitious 1,798,000 lire.

The Damaca continued in production until 1981, by which time Mario Zodiaco had sold his Autozodiaco business and left Italy to roam around the world in a sailing boat, ultimately settling in Panama, where he still lives today.









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