



THE NEW ALFA ROMEO GTAm

500 UNITS. 540HP 2.9 V6 BI-TURBO ENGINE.



 $AlfaRomeo\ Giulia\ GTAm\ CO_2\ emission\ (weighted, combined)\ (g/km):\ 230.\ Fuel\ consumption\ (weighted, combined)\ (l/100\ km):\ 10;\ Values\ calculated\ on\ the\ basis\ of\ WLTP\ procedure\ (Regulation\ (EU)\ 2018/1832).\ Fuel\ consumption\ and\ CO_2\ figures\ are\ provided\ for\ comparative\ purposes\ only\ and\ may\ not\ reflect\ real\ life\ driving$ results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. Only



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Editor Chris Rees chris@auto-italia.co.uk Photographic Editor Michael Ward michael@auto-italia.co.uk Events Director Phil Ward phil@auto-italia.co.uk Editor at Large Peter Collins

Contributors Peter Collins, Richard Heseltine, Andy Heywood, Simon Park, Steve Berry, Simon Charlesworth, Tim Pitt, Richard Dredge, Keith Bluemel, Bryan McCarthy, Phil Ward, Richard Aucock, Mike Rysiecki, Nathan Chadwick

Art Editor Michael Ward Tel: 01462 811115

Back Issues Tel: 01462 811115 **Subscriptions** www.auto-italia.co.uk claire@auto-italia.co.uk

Managing Director Michael Ward General Manager Claire Prior

Advertisement Managers

Robert Dubery Rob.Dubery@tickomedia.co.uk +44 (0)7929 427862 Charlie Wise charlie.Wise@tickomedia.co.uk +44 (0)1398 310250

Classifieds email liz.solo@ntlworld.com

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o Lamborghini has gone and done something it said it would never do: make a retro model. And what a badge it's chosen to revive: Countach. As you can read on page six, the Countach is back with a 1970s-inspired new limited edition. Whatever you think about the success of the new Countach aesthetically speaking – and it's divided opinions pretty much 50/50 in the office - for me personally I feel somewhat ambivalent about it.

On the one hand, it's great to celebrate an icon from your past, and there's not much more iconic in Lamborghini's back catalogue than the Countach LP400, Marcello Gandini's 1970s masterpiece.

Yet it's all too easy to get it wrong; very few car makers ever do a good job of the 'revived classic' thing. By all means, take inspiration from your past but don't sell it short with something that doesn't do the original justice. Fiat came closest, I think, with the new 500 and there have been some stunning 'restomod' efforts like the Delta Futurista and Kimera EVo37.

One thing the new Countach does mark is the end of an era: this is the very last V12 Lamborghini of the old school, by which I mean one with pure V12 power. Yes, it has a mild-hybrid system on board, but this is the last new Lamborghini V12 before the company leaps into the era of plug-in hybrids with the Aventador replacement, due in 2023.

While on the subject of Lamborghini, our test of the new Huracán STO (page 18) is a fascinating one. With its sharp aero package, rear-wheel drive only and - finally - steering that does the car's chassis justice, the STO is a real driver's car, a track-orientated machine that takes the fight to the likes of Ferrari's 488 Pista. The jury's out on how it looks, but as a thing to drive I think it's fair to ask whether this is the best car Lamborghini has ever made. It very well could be.

> **Chris Rees** Editor chris@auto-italia.co.uk

CONTRIBUTORS

Auto Italia is brought to you by a group of journalists and photographers united by a passion for Italian cars. Contributors to this issue include:



Chris Rees



Michael Ward



Prior

Phil Claire Ward



Peter Collins

Trent



Chadwick

Johnny

Tipler

Gary



Axon



Roberto Karl Ludvigsen Giordanelli

MONZA







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ALFA ROMEO GIULIA V6 BITURBO QUADRIFOGLIO

A lovely example Competizione Tri-coat Paint with Black Leather and Alcantara interior with Red stitching, 8 way adjustable electric seats, leather and alcantara sports steering wheel with carbon-fibre insert, Red brake calipers and convenience pack. The low mileage complements what we regard as the ideal Quadrifoglio specification. This Giulia has a full service history which includes the 4th year service and new auxiliary belt. Price includes 4 new Michelin Pilot Sport tyres. Price: £44,995



ALFA ROMEO GIULIA TB 16V

Finished in classic Alfa red with grey cloth upholstery. One owner and full Alfa Romeo service history; last serviced June 2021 and MOT tested at the same time. The specification includes Alloy wheels, Climate controlled air conditioning, Cruise control, Electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Infotainment system, Multifunction steering wheel and remote central locking. Price: £14,995



ALFA ROMEO GTV V6 3.2 LUSSO

2003. Brunello red. Momo black leather. Q2 LSD fitted. Complete service history, maintained by ourselves since 2012. E/W, air con. Benefits from a discreet custom paint-job with the Alfa logo visible on the bonnet from certain angles. Mileage 103,719 miles Price: £10,995



ALFA ROMEO GIULIA TB VELOCE

Latest MY2021 specification Veloce is finished in Vulcano Black with red leather upholstery and dashboard. Amazing specification with Convenience pack, Lane keep assist, Adaptive cruise control and wireless phone charging pad. The Veloce also features Alloys, Climate controlled air conditioning, Electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Steering wheel paddles, Keyless entry and start, Touch screen Infotainment system complete with reversing camera and sat nav. Price: £37,995 Was £41,295



ALFA STELVIO V6 BITURBO QUADRIFOGLIO NRING

Number 83/108 of these limited editions. The NRING is equipped with the famous 510hp 2.9-litre with 6 V 90°cylinder Bi-Turbo engine. Carbon-ceramic brake discs provide matchless braking. This one owner car has a full Alfa Romeo service history and an extremely low mileage. Price: £73,995



ABARTH 500 595C TURISMO

1 owner Abarth. FSH. Metallic blue with black leather upholstery. The Refurbished alloys, just been serviced and MOT tested. The Turismo specification includes Climate controlled air conditioning, Electric windows and door mirrors, Infotainment system with steering wheel controls, Rear parking sensors. Price: £15,695 Was £15,995



ABARTH 500 595

Now available for test drive. Call or email us to discuss your specification and availability for all Abarth models. Monza can supply your own specification of Abarth at a great saving. Price: £16,995



ABARTH 500 595 TURISMO

Virtually as new condition and is still under manufacturers warranty. Finished in red with black leather upholstery. Alloy wheels, Climate controlled air con, E/W, Electric door mirrors, Infotainment system with bluetooth and Rear parking sensors.

Price: £15,995



FIAT 500e LA PRIMA

The all new Electric 500e is available now to view. Coming with a choice of power outputs and specifications culminating in the 500 convertible. The interior and exterior design is instantly recognisable but takes the car to a whole new level. The electric motor provides effortless and very quick acceleration on a sustainable basis. Price: £30,995



FIAT 500 LOUNGE

The all new mild hybrid 500 is available to test drive now at Monza.

We can supply your perfect
500 at a great saving.

Please call us for a quote

Price: £12,995



FIAT 500 POP

White with red and grey cloth upholstery. The Pop comes with Electric windows, door mirrors, Radio with steering wheel controls and auxiliary and USB inputs to link with music streaming. The car also has remote central locking and carpet mats. Price: £5,965 Was £6,495



- * No 1 out of 180 Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Chrysler Jeep dealers for customer satisfaction in the UK. Oct-Dec 2018
- * No 1 out of 165 Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Chrysler Jeep dealers for customer satisfaction in the UK. July-Sep 2018
- * No 1 out of 165 Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Chrysler Jeep dealers for customer satisfaction in the UK. April–June 2018

 * No 1 out of 165 Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Chrysler Jeep dealers for customer satisfaction in the UK. Jan-Mar 2018





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ITALIAN CAR NEWS

Lamborghini Revives Countach

amborghini has reimagined Marcello Gandini's 1970s Countach LP400 for the 2020s with an all-new model called Countach LPI 800-4. The Sant'Agata company describes the Countach LPI 800-4 as "the rebirth of a dream". It pays homage to the 1970s original but, says the Lamborghini, it is "not retrospective: it imagines how the iconic Countach might have evolved into an elite super sports model of this decade."

The new design features a 1970s-inspired wedge silhouette with angular edges, hexagonal-shaped wheelarches and uncluttered lines that deliberately reference the early LP500 and LP400 models. There is no fixed rear wing, for instance, and the slatted air scoops are integrated fluidly in the car's 'shoulders'. Accentuated 1970s-style NACA side intakes are cut into the sides, while the 'Periscopio' indent running from the roof to the rear of the car are another 1970s theme.

While the nose takes inspiration from the later Countach Quattrovalvole, the rear end recalls the distinctive inverted wedge shape of the original Countach, incorporating triple





rear light clusters and quad exhaust pipes, mounted within a carbonfibre diffuser. Visible carbonfibre can be seen in the front splitter, door mirrors, engine cover air intakes and rocker panel. Another modern touch is a photochromatic roof that changes from solid to transparent at the push of a button.

The underpinnings are closely related to Lamborghini's Aventador and Sián. The monocoque chassis and all the body panels are made of carbonfibre, resulting in a low overall weight of 1595kg (dry). The 20-inch front and 21-inch rear wheels echo the famous 'telephone dial' style of the 1980s,





fitted with carbon ceramic brakes and Pirelli P Zero Corsa tyres.

The LPI moniker stands for 'Longitudinale Posteriore Ibrido' (mid-mounted longitudinal hybrid). The 6.5-litre V12 is mated to a mild-hybrid supercapacitor; the V12's power output of 780hp is boosted by 34hp of electric power, giving a combined total of 814hp. That gives the LPI 800-4 a 0-62mph time of 2.8 seconds, 0-124mph in 8.6 seconds and a top speed of 220mph.

'Heritage' paint colours echo solid 1970s palettes, including Impact White, Giallo

Countach and Verde Medio, while contemporary metallic colours include Viola Pasifae and Blu Uranus. Access to the leather-and-carbon-clad cabin is via scissor doors. There are design cues from the original Countach here, too, in the geometric stitching and square motifs. But modernism invades in the form of an 8.4-inch touchscreen unique to the LPI 800-4.

The new Countach is limited to just 112 units worldwide, with deliveries starting in early 2022. And it is ultra-premium-priced – €2 million (£1.7m) before taxes.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

LAMBORGHINI COUNTACH LPI 800-4

ENGINE: POWER: TORQUE:

TRANSMISSION: DIMENSIONS:

WEIGHT: TOP SPEED: 0-62MPH: 6498cc V12 hybrid 780hp at 8500rpm 720Nm (531lb ft) at 6750rpm

7-speed semi-auto, 4WD 4870mm (L), 2099mm (W), 1139mm (H)

1139mm (i 1595kg 220mph 2.8sec







URUS HITS 15,000

The Urus has officially become the fastest-selling Lamborghini of all time. Three years after its launch, the SUV has passed the 15,000 sales mark. Urus chassis 15,000 has been delivered to the UK, painted in Grigio Keres Matt with Verde Scandal details, plus a two-tone interior in Nero Ade/Verde Scandal. The production milestone came a few days after a marque sales record had been set: in the first six months of 2021, 4852 Lamborghinis of all types were delivered globally.



HISTORIC FERRARIS ON SHOW

This year's Concours of Elegance at Hampton Court Palace is to showcase six special Ferraris. The earliest is a 1950 Ferrari 166 Inter, one of three Stabilimenti Farina Cabriolets produced, and the original 1950 Paris Motor Show car. Next is a 1954 Ferrari 250 GT Europa, the only right-hand drive example of 30 made and in the same ownership since 1971. Alongside it will be a 1960 Ferrari 250 GT Coupe by Pininfarina and a 1962 250 GT Berlinetta SWB, the latter one of only 11 RHD examples of 90 road-going steel-bodied SWBs built.



An original, unrestored Ferrari 275 GTB is the example purchased new by the French actor Jean-Paul Belmondo in 1965, being seen for the first time in the UK. Another 275 – a GTB/4 from 1967 – is one of only six factory black cars produced. The sixth and final Ferrari on show is the ex-Stirling Moss F40, with documented correspondence between Enzo Ferrari and himself. The Concours of Elegance will see a total of around 1000 cars gather over 3-5 September. Visit concoursofelegance.co.uk for more information.





BABY TESTA ROSSA: YOURS FOR £97K

A new electric-powered 75% scale replica of the 1957 Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa has been launched, priced at £97,000. The Testa Rossa J is a faithful reproduction of the Scaglietti-designed 'pontoon fender' TR barchetta.

Developed by Ferrari in collaboration with The Little Car Company, Ferrari's Styling Centre in Maranello oversaw the proportions and liveries, while the chassis and other components were created using original drawings held by Ferrari's Classiche department.

The body – which measures 3.1 metres long and 1.1 metres wide – is constructed from hand-beaten aluminium and uses the same paint applied to Ferrari's current road car range. The 3/4 scale car retains the same steering and suspension geometry, giving it "authentic handling", while the suspension (using Bilstein dampers and custom springs) was signed off by Ferrari's test drivers at the Fiorano test track. Brembo disc brakes replace the original drum system while handmade 12-inch wire wheels are shod with Pirelli tyres.

The interior has a single leather seat designed to accommodate one adult and one teenager. The Nardi steering wheel has a quick-release system to ease access. The dials use the original design and fonts, the oil and water gauges being repurposed to monitor battery and motor temperatures, while the fuel gauge is now a battery gauge, and the tachometer has become a speedometer. The pedals come straight from the F8 Tributo.

Three front-mounted batteries provide a range of 56 miles. A *manettino* gives the choice of four driving modes: Novice (1kW), Comfort (4kW), Sport and Race, the latter offering progressively sharper responses and a maximum speed of 38mph. Designed to be driven by anyone over 14 years old, the car is not however homologated for road use.

An online configurator allows a choice of 14 historical liveries and 53 bodywork colours. The Testa Rossa J limited edition of 299 units is priced from €93,000 excluding taxes, equating to around £97,000 tax paid.





FERRARI SF90 BREAKS INDY RECORD

A Ferrari SFgo Stradale Assetto Fiorano has set a new fastest lap for a production car at the 2.43g-mile Indianapolis Motor Speedway road course of 1min 29.625 seconds at a maximum speed of 174.6mph. The SFgo Stradale is the most powerful road Ferrari ever, a plug-in hybrid with a total power output of 1000hp. The optional Assetto Fiorano package adds racing-derived Multimatic dampers; door panels and underbody made from carbonfibre; and springs and exhaust in titanium. 30kg of weight are saved, while a unique carbonfibre rear spoiler generates extra downforce (390kg at 155mph). The Assetto Fiorano package can be ordered with Michelin Pilot Sport Cup2R tyres, which were used to set the Indy lap record.







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ALFA 75 TURBO EVO IMSA FOR SALE

An Alfa Romeo 75 Turbo Evoluzione IMSA racer is to be auctioned in October. Chassis number CBMoo5 was the Alfa Romeo works entry for the 1990 Italian Superturismo Championship, with Allesandro Zamperdi, Marco Brand, Gianni Morbidelli and Nicola Larini competing in the 'A1' class. Larini entered only eight of the 20 races that year but won five of them, finishing third overall.

The car was then campaigned in the 1991 Superturismo 'S1' class, driven by Stefano Buttiero, who finished sixth overall and 'Best Privateer'. In 1992, Motor Sport Italia upgraded the car to IMSA spec with wider wheelarches and other modifications. The car is being auctioned by Bonhams at its Zoute Sale in Belgium on 10 October with a guide valuation of £140,000 to £190,000.



EVOST

KIMERA EV037 DEBUTS AT GOODWOOD

The Kimera EVO37 made its world dynamic debut up the hill at the Goodwood Festival of Speed in July. Having been unveiled by the Duke of Richmond, the Italian-made supercar was piloted up the hillclimb course by Luca Betti, ex-rally champion and founder of Kimera Automobili.

The Kimera EVO37 is described as an "authentic evolution" of the Lancia o37 rally car, a 'restomod' combining classic and modern elements. Its newly-developed engine is a 2.0-litre four-cylinder with a turbocharger and supercharger, delivering 500hp of power and 550Nm torque.

The prototype was finished just before the Festival and was presented in a special 'no paint' livery; a red example of the EVO37 was also on show. Also provisional was the interior; the final configuration will feature full carbon, Alcantara and leather trim. Only 37 cars will be built, 20 of which have already been sold. The first deliveries start in September.

PININFARINA BATTISTA REVEALED IN PRODUCTION SPEC

The first production-specification Pininfarina Battista to roll off the assembly line in Cambiano has made its dynamic debut on US roads at Monterey Car Week. The car features Black Exposed Signature Carbon bodywork, Impulso forged aluminium wheels, Pilota seats in leather and quilted Alcantara, and an 'Interior Jewellery Pack' with brushed aluminium anodised in black. The pure-electric hypercar has also been heard for the first time, showcasing a "unique soundscape". Using a so-called 'Pure Sound' philosophy, the sound is said to "create an emotional reaction for occupants and onlookers". The first customer vehicles are due to be delivered later in 2021.





ATS LAUNCHES LIGHTWEIGHT 'SERIE CARBONIO'

Italian supercar manufacturer ATS has launched a new Serie Carbonio version of its RR Turbo Club Sport. This track car has a full carbonfibre body that weighs only 25kg that can be ordered in either a gloss or matt finish. A carbon-and-Ergal intake system further reduces mass, meaning the car's overall dry weight is only 83okg. With a maximum power output of 60ohp, the power-to-weight ratio is 721hp per tonne.

The cockpit features an Ergal F1-style steering wheel with a 5.5-inch TFT display incorporated. Two knobs allow the selection of three different engine maps and 12 traction control settings. Other features include solid forged 18-inch wheels, frontal honeycomb crash protection, three-way dampers and a pneumatic jacking system.

The Serie Carbonio complies with the FIA's E2 class, making it suitable for championships such as the 24h Series and Britcar. While the regular RR Turbo Club Sport is priced at €145,000, the Serie Carbonio costs €164,000.

Photos: Richard Betts



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NEW FIAT PULSE FOR BRAZIL

Fiat has revealed images of the new Pulse small SUV made in Brazil exclusively for South American markets. The local equivalent of the Fiat 500X, the Pulse is based on a completely different 'MLA' platform used only for South American Fiats. Its design language is also unique, with angular shapes, plastic cladding and two-tone paint. The dashboard features a digital instrument cluster and a 10.1-inch touchscreen. Specifications have yet to be revealed but the Pulse is expected to be offered with a naturally aspirated 1.3-litre engine, a 1.0-litre turbo and a 1.3-litre mild hybrid. The name Pulse was chosen after a public vote and the new model will be launched in Brazil in September.

CLAUDIO ZAMPOLLI

Engineer Claudio Zampolli has died at the age of 82. Born in Modena, Zampolli was at the heart of Lamborghini's development team for seven years. After moving to California to set up a network of dealerships for Italian supercars, he chanced to meet the composer Giorgio Moroder, with whom he founded Automobili Cizeta to produce the Cizeta Moroder V16 supercar from 1989, 14 of which were built up until 1994.



STICKY PLASTICS FIX

A new fix for a common problem with the interior controls of classic Ferraris and Maseratis has been launched. Deterioration in the plastic trim of exotic Italian cars is a well-known issue, particularly Ferrari's rubberised buttons and controls which can become tacky to the touch over time. The problem is compounded if incorrect cleaning is applied, leading to disappearing lettering.

Sticky Plastics is a company based in Billingham in the north east of England that uses a combination of restoration techniques to return sticky components back to pristine. The parts are taken back to base plastic and resprayed using soft-touch coating. Laser printing is then used to reproduce the original lettering. For more information, contact Roly at roland@stickyplastics.com or phone o7944 766966.









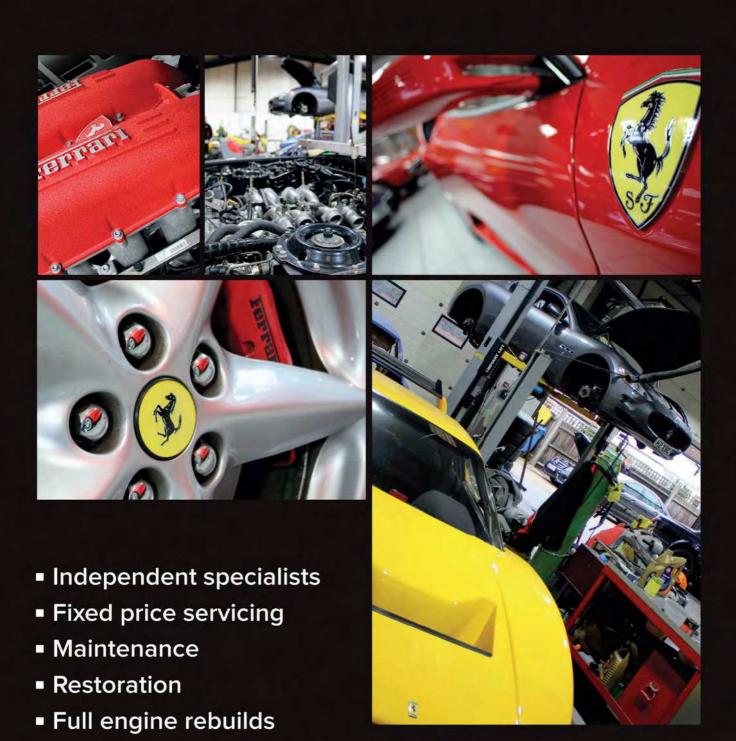
MICHELOTTI 100TH EXPO ANNOUNCED

A new exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the designer Giovanni Michelotti's birth is to open in October. Born in 1921, Michelotti ranks as one of the most admired car designers in history, with a career spanning many decades until his death in 1981. MAUTO – Italy's national car museum located in Turin – will host the solo exhibition. For the first time, a sizeable part of the Michelotti Archive will be shown to the public, including sketches, technical drawings, blueprints and scale models. Also on display will be a selection of the most iconic cars designed by Michelotti, as well as videos that have never been seen before. The exhibit is curated by Giosuè Boetto Cohen, with the support of Edgardo Michelotti, son of the designer and family archivist. The exhibition runs at MAUTO from 6 October 2021 to 9 January 2022.



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Italian Futures

We now know a lot more about Stellantis' plans for Italy's car brands. So what exactly does the future hold for Alfa Romeo, Fiat, Abarth, Maserati and Lancia?



t was only in January 2021 that Peugeot and Fiat combined to form Stellantis. A whole lot has been going on behind the scenes to shape the future of the new company and a clear picture is slowly forming. Here's what we know so far.

What's clear is that the current range is going to be totally overhauled. Relatively new stuff will stay on for now, such as the Fiat' 500e and Giorgio-based Alfa Stelvio and Giulia. The upcoming Alfa Romeo Tonale will be the last with a platform derived from the old Fiat empire (the Fiat Tipo/500X platform).

All other models, from baby Fiats to full-fat SUVs, will use one of just four platforms. Named STLA (pronounced 'Stella'), the platforms are Small, Medium, Large and Frame. 'Small' currently underpins the Peugeot 2008 and Vauxhall Mokka and will soon be used for Fiats, including the Centoventi (new Panda). 'Medium' will be used exclusively by Alfa Romeo and DS for premium models. 'Large' is destined for SUVs, while 'Frame' is reserved for giant SUVs and pickups.

Every Stellantis brand will ultimately be

pure-electric. The first to make the switch will be – surprisingly – Abarth, which will go all-electric in 2024. Lancia will be 100% electric by 2026, while Alfa Romeo will do so in 2027 in Europe, North America and China. By 2024, every model line in Fiat's line-up will have a full-BEV option but it will be later – some time between 2025 and 2030 – when all Fiats will be EV only.

Alfa Romeo will continue to co-operate closely with Maserati, increasingly combining sales and service outlets. Alfa will continue to enjoy a focus on Italian stylistic flair and driving dynamics as "central to its brand identity".

ALFA ROMEO

TONALE (2022)

Previewed in concept form

(above) in July 2019, the Tonale SUV (a BMW X1/Volvo XC40 rival) effectively replaces the Giulietta, which left production at the end of 2020. Its launch has been delayed from this year till June 2022 as the plug-in hybrid version is worked on to deliver better

dynamics. Tonales with conventional petrol and diesel engines will follow, plus a redblooded Quadrifoglio performance version.

BRENNERO (2023)

This small SUV will be the new entry-level point in Alfa Romeo's line-up. It will be a sister model to the all-new Fiat 500X and will be built in Poland from early 2023. Its STLA Small platform will house combustion engines, hybrid and pure-electric power, the latter becoming Alfa Romeo's first ever full-electric car. A successor to the MiTo, which ceased production in 2018, could also be developed on the same platform but this seems less likely.

NEW GIULIA (2023)

It's goodbye Giorgio platform and hello STLA for the new Giulia that's due in 2023 – but elements of the Giorgio platform, including its steering and suspension, will be adopted. Mild-hybrid and plug-in variants will be offered, as well as a pure-electric variant. Expect the all-new Stelvio to use the same platform in 2024.

GTV

A two-door GTV version of the current Giulia was reportedly fully developed to production maturity but this was definitively cancelled earlier this year. Instead it is thought that a four-door GTV coupe version of the next-generation Giulia is being considered. Alfa boss Jean-Philippe Imparato says he has not ruled out a new Alfa Spider, too.

MASERATI

MC20 EV (2022)

The V6-powered MC20 (right) is now in production, with the first cars delivered in September. An open-top Spider version is definitely on the cards, while an allelectric version has also been confirmed for next year, with four-wheel drive instead of rear drive and even more power and torque. Maserati is also considering an MC20 hybrid.



GRECALE (2022)

Maserati's new Grecale – set to be unveiled in November 2021 – will give the brand a medium SUV to rival the Porsche Macan. It's the last Maserati to use an FCA platform (Giorgio, sharing much with the Alfa Stelvio) and it may well have Alfa power, although all that Maserati has so far said is that it will be available with petrol, hybrid and pure electric power.

GRANTURISMO & GRANCABRIO (2022)

It's getting close to the reveal of the hotly anticipated new GranTurismo and GranCabrio models (below). These two-door GT cars will be offered with either petrol or electric powertrains, making these newcomers the first fully-electric Maseratis.





GHIBLI/QUATTROPORTE (2023)

A single new Maserati saloon model is thought to be replacing both the Ghibli and Quattroporte in 2023. It will likely use the new STLA Large platform with Giorgio platform technology added in. The Levante is also to be replaced at the same time.

FIAT

PUNTO (2023)

Fiat is planning to return to the mainstream supermini class with a direct successor to the Punto, which was axed back in 2018. Scheduled for 2023, it will use the STLA Small (Peugeot 208) platform.

500X (2023)

The successor to the Fiat 500X will be launched in early 2023, based on the STLA Small platform. It's set to be made in Poland.

PANDA (2024)

Stellantis management has hinted that the lauded 2019 Centoventi concept (below) is not dead. It will form the basis of a new entry-level electric car to replace the Panda. Delayed from its original 2022 on-sale date, this is set for launch in 2024.

ABARTH

Abarth will become an all-electric brand by 2024, although whether that will be with a souped-up variant of the Fiat 500e or an all-new model is unknown. Ironically it means that, 75 years after Abarth first started life making exhausts in 1949, it will no longer be fitting an exhaust system to any of its models.

LANCIA

According to the trade journal *Automotive News*,

Lancia is about to enjoy a renaissance with three new models – and will expand beyond being a domestic-only brand to be relaunched in export markets (though whether that includes the UK remains to be seen).

Lancia will be 100% electric by 2026. The STLA Small platform will be used for the Ypsilon's replacement in 2024, with both hybrid and electric versions expected, making this Lancia's first ever full-electric car. It's not known whether the new Ypsilon will be an SUV or a hatchback. A larger SUV is also possible in 2026, plus a medium-size hatchback that could revive the Delta badge in 2027.





Where else can you go to buy a four-seat open-roof electric car? Answer: nowhere "

Elemental Electric

Close to the elements in Fiat's new all-electric 500 Convertible

Story by Chris Rees



e've tested the all-electric new Fiat 500 in hatchback form. Now it's the turn of the canvas-roof 500 Convertible – which is, says Fiat, the only four-seat fully electric convertible available anywhere in the world.

When the original Fiat 500C came out, I thought no one in their right mind would pay well over two grand extra for what amounted to, in my book, a fancy sunroof. How wrong I was. The drop-top has been a mainstay of the 500 range, selling in its thousands to... well I don't want to typecast but I've noticed a preponderance of elegant ladies of a certain age. Which makes the paint scheme of my test car (Rose Gold) entirely apt, even if I get some odd looks from other road users (not myself being a lady of a certain age, nor indeed elegant).

When I think of a convertible, I picture a car with a roof that folds right out of view behind the rear seats, not a canvas sunroof like the 500 has. But hey, the original 500 of 1957 had a 'rolltop' roof so I suppose I can take it. The week of my test was sunny – there was one this summer, I promise – so I drove most of my time with the roof folded back.

A few open-roof notes. It's just so pleasant to have the air wafting through the cabin and the sun on your bonce. However, it's not so pleasant when you roll back the roof to the first of its two positions (just above the rear passengers' heads), since the buffeting noise is so awful at speed. Press the button again and the roof slides back to just above the bootlid and suddenly the noise is much less obtrusive. However, the same visibility issues affect this iteration of the 500 Convertible as the previous one: with the

roof fully folded back, you really can't see anything in the rear-view mirror.

Another factor you'll have to live with is the half-height bootlid, which makes accessing the boot tricky. But fold the rear seats down and you still have plenty of space for ponchos and poodles.

Opening the door via the flush-fitting electric handle, you're greeted by a spacious cabin, a pleasingly low seating position and plenty of space up front (though it's much tighter in the back). Our high-spec Icon trim test car has a superb 10.25-inch touchscreen in the middle of the dash with a clear and easy-to-use display, plus a seven-inch digital instrument display ahead of you.

As for how the electric 500 Convertible drives, I have no qualms on that score. The drop-top is only available with the higher-spec 118hp, 42kWh electric system (a smaller 95hp motor and 24kWh battery pack are available with the hatchback). Press the 'D' button on the 'PNRD' array and the single-speed automatic makes driving simplicity itself. With full torque on tap from the off, acceleration feels genuinely rapid (0-62mph in 9.0 seconds, for instance). This is a superbly refined drive, too, with almost no powertrain noise.

Since the batteries are sited so low down in the chassis and wholly between the axles, the handling is really good, with next to no body roll, plenty of grip and very predictable behaviour. However, the steering is a bit light for my taste and lacks a sense of feel and feedback.

There are three driving modes to choose from: Normal, Range and Sherpa. In Range you have throttle-off braking by the bucketload – ideal for urban traffic as you can

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

FIAT 500E CONVERTIBLE

ENGINE: BATTERY CAPACITY: POWER OUTPUT: TORQUE: TRANSMISSION:

DIMENSIONS:

WEIGHT: TOP SPEED: 0-62MPH: RANGE:

PRICE:

Electric motor 42kWh 87kW (118hp) 220Nm (162lb ft) Single-speed auto, front-wheel drive

front-wheel drive 3631mm (L), 1687mm (W), 1508mm (H)

1405kg 93mph 9.0 sec 199 miles

From £27,145 (after EV grant)

effectively use the accelerator pedal alone and hardly need bother with the brake pedal. Sherpa mode turns off things like air con to maximise range.

Speaking of range, Fiat quotes a total of 199 miles. However, starting with a full battery, the dashboard shows a 161-mile range – good but not world-beating. Flip open a flap on the offside rear to recharge the batteries, which takes about six hours using a home Wallbox.

The £2650 premium charged for the convertible over the hatchback will be easily swallowed by those who love their open-roof motoring. And as Fiat says, where else can you go to buy a four-seat open-roof electric car? Answer: nowhere.





Loud Proud

Much more than a
Huracán with a bodykit
and lairy paint, the new
STO finally realises the
potential that we all
hoped was there, as
we discover at
Vallelunga circuit

Story by Dan Trent

s we swelter in the mid-summer heat at Vallelunga circuit during the launch of the new Huracán STO, Lamborghini's technical boss Maurizio Reggiani is in reflective mood: "I always said that the one thing missing from Lamborghini was a car for track days – and now we have it." I first met Reggiani at the static unveiling of the original Huracán LP610-4 at Sant'Agata back in 2014 and, having attended launches for pretty much every variant between then and now, it feels like we've been on something of a journey together as the car has evolved under his watch.

It's a journey that has seen Lamborghini transition from a brand for show-offs to one that now competes against its direct rivals on track and, like them, leverages motorsport success for credibility in its roadgoing product. It's not a game that Lamborghini has traditionally felt the need to play. But it's something that changed with the Huracán, with both 'gentleman driver' one-make Super Trofeo championships and entry to frontline GT3 racing against the likes of Porsche, Ferrari, Aston Martin, McLaren, Mercedes-AMG and the rest. Early signs that Reggiani and his team were keen to leverage this – and rattle a few cages – then came with a startling Nürburgring lap time for the Huracán







Performante, the most extreme roadgoing Huracán yet (previous to the new STO, at any rate).

I vividly recall being on the Porsche stand at the Geneva show where this feat was announced publicly and overhearing a conversation between two senior Porsche development bosses that revealed much about who within the wider VW group was 'supposed' to be chasing 'Ring lap times. Having declared in blunt terms his doubts that the Huracán was capable of a 6min 52sec lap, my Porsche man concluded with the revealing line: "And anyway, it is my f***ing Nürburgring!" This as then-boss Stefano Domenicali and Reggiani stood beaming like naughty schoolboys beside the

Performante on the adjacent show stand, doubtless aware of the internal political storm they'd just whipped up.

The Performante was Reggiani's answer to some of the criticisms of the original LP610-4 Huracán – that was just a little too safe in its handling and character. Where even an average driver could make a contemporary Ferrari dance on the throttle, and purists loved McLaren's Lotus-style feel, the Huracán looked and sounded great but was about as exciting to drive as the mainstream products from its Audi parent company. With its trick 'aero vectoring' variable downforce and increased power, the Performante was a step in the right direction, but it was still all-wheel drive and far from being a Pista, GT3 RS or

McLaren Longtail in its focus.

In contrast, this new STO is all racer and all about lap times. But it's also, perhaps, the best-handling Huracán yet. The fundamentals remain the same as with all Huracáns, which is to say the familiar – and fabulous – 5.2-litre V10 and its very vocal demand for 8000rpm before it will give you its full 640hp. No torque-filling turbos or hybrid assistance here, and though it's down on the numbers compared with more recent rivals, it never disappoints in its responses, or the charismatic way it delivers them.

Like the Super Trofeo and GT3 racers, the STO is rear-wheel drive rather than all-wheel drive, and also carries the rear-wheel steering introduced on the Huracán Evo, as

Finally, here is an amped-up Huracán with all the disappointing gloop in the controls eradicated ""



well as revised springs, anti-roll bars and settings for the variable magnetorheological dampers. There is – finally – a steering set-up that's fast and fixed rate. Reggiani's apologetic shrug suggests he knew all along that the previous options of a slow-racked passive set-up or gloopy variable system were both significant chinks in the Huracán's dynamic armour.

Visually the STO makes a bigger statement still. The bodywork is now all-carbon bar the roof and doors. The front end is a one-piece clamshell while the rear quarters are totally reshaped and widened to accommodate broader track and new aero, while also reducing the frontal area to cut drag. A roof snorkel directs air through

the engine bay for better cooling, while a vertical shark fin helps both lateral stability and airflow over the three-position rear wing. Downforce and aero efficiency are also massively improved over the Performante, with as much as 420kg at 280km/h and the ability to adjust the aerodynamic balance according to taste. Uprated CCM-R brakes and new Bridgestone road-legal track tyres are other important contributors to both consistency and linearity of response to satisfy serious drivers.

But do serious drivers really buy Lamborghinis? It takes just one run through the fearsome fifth-gear downhill right-left at Vallelunga to appreciate how all this adds up, and why they might now want to. Where the original LP610-4 was vague and inconsistent in its turn-in, there's sufficient weight to the STO's wheel that you feel the tread blocks biting into the hot tarmac. Thankfully the damping is there with the support to balance the car as the loads build through the chassis, the speeds sufficient that the aero has a meaningful stabilising effect and you're happy picking up the throttle smartly with no fear of unsettling the car. This is a Huracán with all the good bits – the glorious noise, the lag-free throttle response, the visual drama – amped up and all the disappointing gloop in the controls eradicated.

The maximum downforce setting applied to the launch cars means a rearward aero balance. While that's good for stability, it



takes a little off the front end, meaning understeer is still apparent on turn-in. Even taking that into account, you have more faith in the front end than any other Huracán that's gone before and the confidence to bring the throttle in early, the linearity of the response meaning there's no sudden turbocharged or electrified squirt overwhelming the rear tyres. Rather, the STO just feels beautifully balanced and way more communicative than previous Huracáns. That's much more confidence-inspiring, on the basis that the balance of power has now shifted back to the driver and away from the black boxes. Just as the one-make Super Trofeo cars are designed simultaneously to flatter and thrill the gentleman racer, the STO does the same, proving both easy to drive quickly but no less exciting for that. This focus, underscored with the stuff Lamborghini already does so well (like noise, drama and - yes - a sense of fun) is something of a revelation.

With three consecutive 24-hour victories at Daytona it's little wonder that Lamborghini has chosen Vallelunga circuit to demonstrate proof of concept, sharing with us a lap time of 1min 48.86sec on the Bridgestone track tyres against the 1min 46.4sec of a slick-

shod GT3 race car. To add more context, the STO is three seconds faster than the Performante by the same measure. Given Porsche has recently re-established its ownership of Nordschleife lap records, I ask Reggiani if he's planning any trips back to the Eifel mountains in the near future, to which he grins and changes the subject.

Such capabilities are all very well for bragging rights, and great fun for journalists invited to razz the STO around a track for a day on Lamborghini's tyre budget. But will any of this actually matter to the people buying a car that, even by the standards of the brand, looks pretty wild for the public road? And will the people who buy (and track) the Porsche 911 GT3s that Reggiani says are the benchmark in this sector really feel inclined to do the same with a Lamborghini that some may say looks like it took a wrong turn through a Mansory showroom?

That will be down to the customers, of course. But with the validation of race success, and the sense this is a Huracán you could hammer all day on track without any fear of it flagging, it can back up those looks with some real ability. Let's hope owners can find tracks with noise limits accommodating enough for them to prove it.









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Enigma Machine

The GranSport marked a real high point for Maserati in the new millennium. So why were only 26 drop-top GranSports ever sold in the UK? We grab a rare test drive to find out





s there a better value Italian exotic on the market today than the Maserati GranSport? With a 401hp Ferrari V8 engine, genuine room for four and sensuous good looks, it represents excellent value for money for £20k and up for a nice one. Although it didn't sell in 911-rivalling quantities, it nevertheless represented an excellent honing of the 4200 formula. That car didn't have the easiest critical reception when it was launched but by the time the GranSport came along, Maserati had cured most of the car's ills and added a dose of attitude to the aesthetics and performance. Given Maserati's UK sales just a decade previous to the car's 2004 introduction were little more than double digits, the GranSport was a success.

In 2006, Maserati decided to produce a drop-top Spyder version of the GranSport – with the base materials so desirable and the droptop version of the 4200 reasonably popular, you'd expect the new car to add further invigoration to the sales figures. But it wasn't to be – just 26 GranSport Spyders came to the UK.

As I stand before Rex Barton's stunning Grigio Touring example, I can't help but wonder why. Giorgetto Giugiaro's original 3200 design, mildly tweaked for the 4200, has always been a looker. Frank Stephenson's additions – the deeper front splitter and 'surfboard' sills, primarily – were great. But not every coupe completes its topless transformation successfully. Take the Aston Martin DB7 Volante, for example – when down, the canvas hood sits on its pert rump with all the elegance of Dick Turpin's hat. By contrast, the GranSport hides its hood well, lying under a cover behind the roll-over hoops. It's a very elegant solution.

Removing the rear seats allows for that, of course, and this is perhaps where the GranSport Spyder ultimately fell down compared to its rivals. The 3200, 4200 and the GranSport are notable for being true four-seaters, something that very few rivals could counter. But the Spyder was a strict two-seater. Another reason for the slow sales could be timing – the Aston Martin Vantage Volante and the Jaguar XKR Convertible were fresh-faced and new, whereas by 2006 the GranSport's basic shape had been around for eight years, and the new GranTurismo was just a year away. Being four grand cheaper than the XKR Convertible clearly wasn't enough to tempt any more than 26 people into Maserati dealerships.

We're glad that the first owner of this particular example did, however. With the British summer taking a small window of opportunity to keep itself dry, the roof is very much down today. All the better to hear the 4244cc naturally aspirated Ferrari-derived F136 V8 burble into life, smooth yet bristling with intent. The same family of engines would power the GranTurismo and Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione (with cross-plane crankshafts), while in flat-plane form it would power the Ferrari F430, California and 458 Italia. Quite a CV, that.

Pull the right-hand paddle and the six-speed Cambiocorsa semi-automatic gearbox thumps us into motion. The GranSport never received the 4200's manual option, but this doesn't really matter. While in the coupe there's always the feeling of what might have been if there'd been a full complement of pedals, the droptop seems to suit what paddleshift transmissions do best – ease of use for most of the











time, with the electro-mechanical engagement there if you need it for occasional off-piste naughtiness.

To indulge such naughtiness requires considered picking of your moment and, more importantly, your route. The GranSport's main criticism compared to its rivals was that its ride was far too harsh for a GT car. The reasons for this lie in its Ferrari-encumbered development: the GranSport was supposed to be a

or not, thuds and clobbers B-roads, rather than absorbs them. It helps make the GranSport a sportier and more engaging car to drive fast than its successor, the GranTurismo, especially as it is feels much smaller and nimbler. Sadly, with the roof off, it doesn't do much for the GranSport Spyder's torsional rigidity. Over the more corrugated sections of the nation's highways, there's more jiggle than a millennial rap video, the rear-view

The GranSport Spyder may never be a B-road thriller but on smooth A-roads it makes so much more sense

hardcore machine in the manner of the 360 Challenge Stradale, but Maranello saw that as too much of a threat and demanded the car be more GT-like. Still, the GranSport's Skyhook adaptive damping system was toughened up compared to the 4200, and ride height dropped by 10mm to provide a meaner, more aggressive experience.

The result is a car that, whether you're in Sport mode

mirror oscillating to a blurriness I've not experienced since I 'tested' the full range of Martini-based cocktails. The steering wheel writhes in my hands as I pick my way around potholes, and as you start to lean on the nose on B-roads, the steering doesn't inspire confidence as the 50kg extra weight over the tin-top starts to make itself felt. All topless cars have problems with scuttle shake, but the GranSport Spyder

Losing the roof makes scuttle shake spoil the GranSport party on anything but smooth roads



MASERATI GRANSPORT SPYDER

feels more noticeably less tied down than the rival Aston and Jag, and even the 4200 Spyder.

An abject failure then? Absolutely not. The GranSport Spyder may never be a B-road thriller – the hardtop and MC Victory versions (see issue 300) do that job far better – but on smooth A-roads the GranSport makes so much more sense, with only the odd expansion joint throwing a literal wobbler. At all other times it's firm but friendly, with superb grip through the 19in rubber. You soon ease back and enjoy a fast but less frenetic driving style.

The good news continues with the steering – it might not have the greatest depth of feel through the part-carbon, part-leather wheel, but it's sharp and accurate, making the car easy to place on flowing A-roads. Stopping power is excellent, too, thanks to Brembo four-pot callipers and 330mm front and 310mm rear discs.

The interior is a work of art that, despite having its origins in the 1990s, still manages to look fresh and exciting, courtesy of Enrico Fumia's penwork. It's a glorious combination of curves, leather and bluetinged carbonfibre that's exotic to the eyes, nose and fingertips in a way that only Italian and British

trimmers seem to master.

This all pales into insignificance when you assess the star of the car – its engine. What starts as a smooth baritone grumble as you potter around develops into a full-blown growl as your right foot sinks further into the carpet. In Sport mode, additional exhaust valves open above 4000rpm to unleash a zinging, metallic howl as you chase the 7000rpm rev limit. Lift your right foot gently, pull the right-hand paddle and it begins again, a nerve-tingling ascent of the rev range that becomes addictive to the point of intoxicating, engineering rendered as art.

Pretty soon all thoughts of scuttle shake start to leave your mind. On a long motorway trip, the GranSport is sublime. The V8 makes all the right fruity noises when you want to be a hooligan but settles down to a refined burble when you just want to cruise. It's also got an accessible mid-range for outside-lane overtakes, the full 333lb ft coming in at around 450orpm.

Rex Barton, who'd only owned the car you see before you for a matter of days at the time of our shoot, is clearly enamoured with it. As a 3200 owner, he's been a member of the Maserati Owners' Club for

Swoopy, blue carbon-tinged cabin feels very special. Glorious V8 engine is a genuine highlight









TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

MASERATI GRANSPORT SPYDER

4.95sec

ENGINE: POWER: TORQUE: TRANSMISSION: WEIGHT: MAX SPEED: 0-62MPH: 4244cc V8 DOHC 401hp at 7000rpm 452Nm (333lb ft) at 4500rpm 6-speed semi-automatic 1730kg 177mph



11 years, and it's thanks to this he's just bought this car from McGrath Maserati. "I was looking for something different and I'd seen GranSport Spyders at club events," he says. "It's a good touring car – reasonable boot space for a weekend away, and the drop-top is an advantage for Alpine passes. The gearbox is good for touring, too."

Like me, Rex is a big fan of the engine sound, especially with the roof down. Even in the short time he's owned the car, it's made quite an impression. "It's a more well-rounded, easy-to-drive car than a manual 3200," he says. "The GranSport has better weight distribution, too."

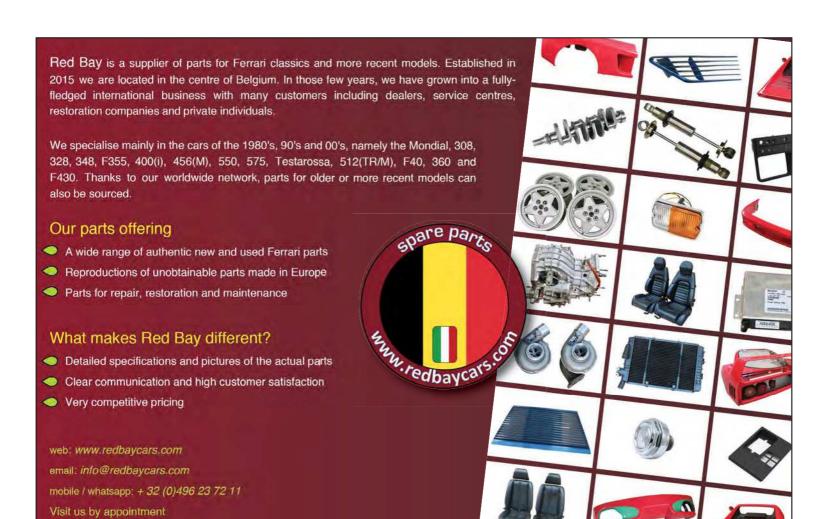
Rex acknowledges the scuttle shake problem but hasn't found it unreasonable and says it just takes getting used to. He's right – jump into the GranSport Spyder on terrible roads and it'd be very easy to dismiss in the face of some very talented non-Italian

rivals. Give it time, however, and the GranSport Spyder starts to get under your skin. But this is *Auto Italia* and I'm a marque enthusiast, so it's time to put my journalist hat on. Through an objective lens, the GranSport Spyder has a tough battle. The Aston V8 Vantage and Porsche 911 997 have a manual option and are sportier, while the Jaguar XKR is much smoother, and all have a wider choice of spares and specialist backup. They're all also much cheaper than the Maserati – you're looking at £40,000 for a good GranSport Spyder, not that they come up very often.

This isn't a rational choice – you buy a GranSport Spyder because you love it. It's very much a heart-overhead decision, but then that's always the way with Maserati. For all its flaws and foibles, the undiluted V8 sound soon makes you forget such trivialities. And as I type, dreaming of a long trip to Biarritz, the GranSport Spyder would make for an excellent companion.

Thanks to Rex Barton, Maserati Owners' Club (maseraticlub.co.uk) and McGrath Maserati (mcgrathmaserati.co.uk)







Tel: +44 161 881 3463 Fax: +44 161 881 1515 Email: info@autoshieldmaserati.co.uk Autoshield Maserati Ltd 465 Barlow Moor Road Chorlton-cum-Hardy Manchester M21 8AU





Rorty at Forty

Fiat's Ritmo/Strada Abarth turns 40 years old this year. We go canyoning in a beautifully restored Abarth 130 TC to rediscover the hot hatch legend

Words: Johnny Tipler Photos: Antony Fraser

opular auto folklore has it that the 1974
Volkswagen Golf GTi was the world's first
hot hatchback. But it was actually Abarth in
Italy that got in first. The pioneering 1971
Autobianchi A112 Abarth may only have had
58hp from its 982cc engine, but it was light enough to
be a zesty drive, as we discovered in our full feature on
this model (see July 2021).

Fast-forward 10 years to 1981 and the hot hatch genre was really starting to mushroom. Fiat's 1981

riposte to the Golf GTi was the 2.0-litre Ritmo 125 TC. Unlike some of its rivals, the Abarth 125 TC didn't rely on fuel injection or turbocharging to deliver its power but instead a transplanted a 1995cc Fiat twin cam (hence the TC suffix) from the 131 Sport breathing through a single Weber carburettor and mated to a ZF five-speed gearbox.

However the 125 TC was never sold in right-hand drive markets. It took until 1983 for the upgraded Abarth 130 TC to reach the UK. Here it was renamed Strada, since Ritmo was apparently too convoluted for us to pronounce. Uprated over the 125 TC with a pair of twin-choke, side-

draught Weber DCOE40 carburettors, the 130 TC boasted 130hp and 130lb ft of torque. This was a quick car for its day, bettering even the Golf GTi for a year or so, covering o-62mph in a lively 8.0 seconds and topping out at 123mph.

Enhanced suspension included Koni dampers and stiffer progressive coils on the front struts that reconciled increased weight and decreased ride height. Braking was by 9.5-inch ventilated discs fitted on the front and drums at the rear, while a floating anti-roll bar was attached to the suspension but not to the body. The TC's 14-inch alloy wheels were shod with 185/60x14 Pirelli P6s.

About 800 examples of the 130 TC were imported into the UK from 1983 to 1989. Changes over its lifespan were few: just different interiors, wheels, grilles and numberplate siting. Tragically, just a handful of cars left on our roads – single figures, certainly –

plus perhaps another dozen off the road, some of which are known to be in restoration.

The reason for the paucity of survivors isn't so much that the 130 TC wasn't loved – although the millstone reputation for corrosion attached to all Italian cars of that era hasn't helped – it was simply always a leftfield car compared to the Golf GTi. VW's ethos was imagedriven, with the implication that fuel injection was good and carbs bad, while its suave design, creature comforts, snappy performance and sure-footed

handling made it a legend.

The Strada Abarth was pretty much the opposite. It went with oldschool twin carbs and high-lift cams; it had no creature comforts apart from oversize front seats; it was very loud with its four-branch manifolds and trademark Abarth exhaust; and it got a reputation for feisty, fidgety handling. And since so few were imported, it never got a chance to establish much of a reputation, so it was a real enthusiast's car from the word go. When the Abarth 130 TC was phased out, hot hatches were getting even hotter and the poor Fiat was virtually forgotten except by a

handful of devotees. The 130 TC was the very last car built by Abarth on its own production line, rather than on the Fiat assembly line, so some view it as the last 'proper' Abarth.

Our test car belongs to designer Doug Blair, who tells us: "I like Italian styling from the 1970s onwards – angular designs like Gandini and Giugiaro did with all those sharp edges. About 10 years ago I was looking for a Strada Abarth to rekindle my youth but they are so few and far between, it was very difficult to find one. I got a tip-off from a friend in Poole, and it was just what I was after because it had a decent bodyshell, low miles and one owner from new. But I knew it had to be restored. Over a period of four years it was renovated by Andrew Mitchell at Mitchell Motors at Chicklade in Wiltshire, then assembled by Purbeck Sports Cars in Dorset. It was an extensive, full-on, baremetal restoration, a proper nut-and-bolt job. It has

been reupholstered as well, though most of the seats are original. I managed to keep a load of old trim from an Abarth I had when they were new. The seat bolsters wear badly because the Recaros are difficult to get in and out of, so the sides get worn really easily."

As for the mechanicals, most of the parts are still quite easy to get hold of. It's things like right-hand drive headlights, grilles and foglights that are difficult to find. There are sources in Italy, plus fan groups and events like Techno Classica, where you can get bits and pieces for them.

When Doug got his restored car back he immediately started driving it to shows. "I had two Strada Abarths back in the day, so it was nice to find

are the monster Recaro competition seats, ready-made for harnesses. They are generously upholstered with a considerable amount of body-contouring, although awkwardly, the top of the headrest makes contact with the cabin roof, restricting access to the regular Strada rear seats. Happily for rear seat passengers, the headrest panels feature fisherman's netting so the view from back to front isn't blocked. The leather-rimmed steering wheel is appropriately Scorpion logo'd, and is a decent diameter, although it does obscure the outer gauges slightly.

The digital clock has a lap timer facility – quite a sophisticated amenity for 1984 – along with the equally sensational drilled throttle pedal. The

You definitely feel the power and torque urgently pushing forwards like a rugby maul in every gear ***

that it drove basically the same as I remembered. There are certain period aspects that you have to live with, like poor headlights, but it's a fantastic car that basically feels brand new."

Doug even got Abarth Classiche engineers to come over from the factory in Italy to certify his car. Having pulled it apart for a couple of hours and made sure that everything was original, they gave him a certification book and a plaque that confirms its originality, endowing it with factory provenance and authenticity.

Open the bonnet and the transverse-mounted 2.0-litre twin-cam is a very neat fit. The red airbox sits at the front, with forward-facing Webers, Digiplex electronic ignition and Momo strut brace also prominent.

Open the doors and the first thing that greets you

dashboard, instrument gauge binnacle and console are period-typical rectangular installations. Readouts for oil pressure and oil temperature were also precocious for the time.

Having owned two 130 TCs in the past, Doug believes that no two cars are identical. His car's bodyshell is seam-welded to add rigidity and there's a Momo strut-brace between the front shock turrets. External detailing includes Abarth's Scorpion badge in the wheel centre caps, front grille and prominent silencer box. The hunky plastic rear spoiler is also specific to the Abarth, and there are a few more idiosyncratic styling details like red lines inset into the lower protective trims, orange pyramid side indicators and half-moon door handles, matched by













Brutal power delivery and feisty torque steer make the 130 TC feel like a bucking bronco to drive

the fuel filler cap. The original spec had wind deflectors on the tops of the front windows, but Doug has removed them as they have a tendency to get stolen or fly off. They were meant to have added a couple of mph to the car's top speed, which, if true, made all the difference in 1985.

Does the Strada struggle in the aesthetics department? Be charitable! Sure, more attractive hot hatch designs have come and gone during the past 40 years, so it has to be viewed in the context of its time. For instance, we love the view diagonally across the front, including both sets of headlights and the angled upright bars in the centre of the grille with the Abarth badge.

Doug is trying to keep mileage to a minimum – it's done just 50,000 miles to date. We'll add a wee bit to that now, as it's time to have a run up and down Cheddar Gorge. We keep a wary eye out for the mountain goats that occasionally wander unpredictably into the road. Tourists are the least of our problems!

The doors shut with a nice clean clunk, although the panel gaps are hardly precision-fit. Gaining access to the cabin is easy enough, despite the big seats. Immediately I think this is quite a high driving position in relation to the controls - and the seat is fixed so you can't lower it. I feel like I'm towering above the steering wheel. The seat itself is body-hugging and well padded; no complaints on that score. The gear

lever falls neatly to hand, and it's a handy tip-of-littlefinger-to-thumbnail distance away from the steering wheel. Of the dials in front of me, the speedo and tacho are in plain sight but I have to look around the wheel rim to see the warning signs and the oil pressure, oil temperature and voltage gauges. Everything to do with the dashboard is squared off, with rectangular shapes everywhere, from glovebox to ventilation ducting to heater switchgear.

Turning the ignition on, the engine starts first time with a guttural note, tickover settling down to slightly over 1000rpm. There's no power steering, although you quickly get used to that. You don't have to be shy of the controls: there's none of the delicacy of modern machinery, and it's not subtle in terms of accelerator and clutch deployment. The gearshift is quite heavy and occasionally difficult going in and out of second, while the sharpish clutch makes taking off in first a bit snaky.

Torque steer means it's best not to deploy too much throttle, although the engine does thrive at high revs. One of the great things about the powerplant is the depth of gutsy power: you have to rev it to get it to deliver, a bit like a racing car, but you definitely feel the power and torque urgently pushing forwards like a rugby maul in every gear.

Understeer is controlled easily enough by the steering wheel and throttle. I'm working hard on the steering, muscling it into tight turns. The P6000s offer

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1985 Fiat Strada Abarth 130TC Est Value: £12,000

Based on 52 year old male,

Architect, full NCB, living in NR6 postcode, SD&P (exc. commuting), garaged, 5000 miles pa, car club member, 2nd car for everyday use.

Premium: £88.67 inc IPT Excess: £75 (exc. fee + legal cover)







good grip, and the relatively tall sidewalls give a good ride, if a bit crashy because of the stiff suspension. The brake pedal feels like an on-off switch. Hit the pedal hard and it stops, which is OK as long as you plan ahead a bit and know your limitations. Hauling it around the turns means no half measures: you have to drive it, you have to be master of it straightaway, and oddly enough, the upright driving position suits that; this is not a car for relaxing in, it wants to be driven hard, nailed all the time. Modern hot hatches are more refined compared to the coarse Strada Abarth but it's laugh-a-minute fun to aim it around these never-ending bends. And it still feels quick by today's standards.

The 130 TC feels like a raw workover carried out at a local tuning shop. It feels like what I did in my own backyard with an Alfa Romeo Giulia 1300 TI upped to 2.0-litre Berlina spec, or my racing GTV 6 and 3.0 Alfa 75. That's the best comparison I can make: the Strada Abarth is a tuned-up specialist hot-rod. Put another way, it's the World Rally Championship winner that could have been.







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Drop-Tops of the Pops

These two quirkily styled sports cars from the Fiat Group were launched within one year of each other. Which one fulfilled its brief better? We find out by testing Alfa Spider and Fiat Barchetta back-to-back

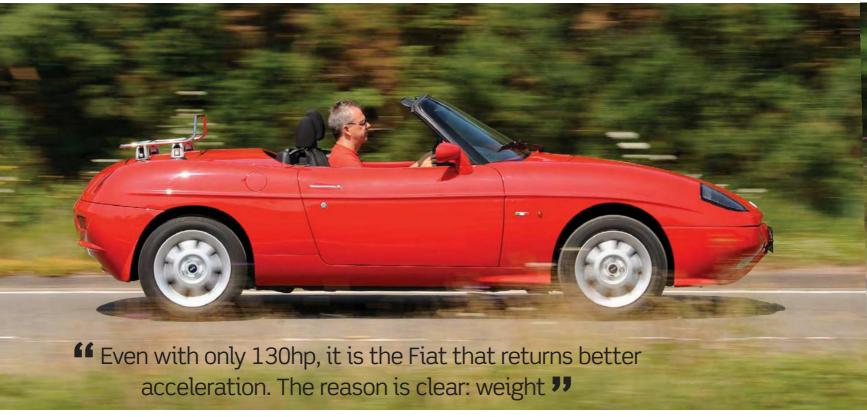












Fiat subcontracted manufacture to the coachbuilder Maggiora – at any rate until it went bust in 2003, when production was brought in-house to the Mirafiori plant. Like the 916 Spider, the Barchetta survived in production until 2005, but it actually outsold the Alfa, shifting around 57,000 units compared to 39,000 Spiders – although it's a rarer sight in the UK.

There are lots of similarities between this 1990s pairing: both are based on Fiat floorpans, for instance – Tipo in the Spider's case and Punto in the Barchetta's – and both are therefore front-wheel drive. Their engines share some common ancestry, too. But there are also quite a few contrasts: the Barchetta is much smaller and lighter, for instance; in terms of design they're very different; and the Barchetta was only ever made in left-hand drive (although RHD conversions do exist).

So it's time to compare Barchetta and Spider on the road. Our red pairing come from the heart in more senses than one, since they are owned by enthusiasts at the heart of the UK head office of Fiat and Alfa Romeo. The Barchetta is owned by Darren James who runs the Fiat/Alfa demonstration garage, while the Spider belongs to Damien Dally, the UK

country manager for Alfa. Both cars are pretty much as they came from the factory except that the Barchetta has had front foglamps added and the Spider has been treated to alloy wheels from an Alfa 156 Ti (plus a 'Ti' boot badge), while its interior has been beautifully reupholstered.

ON THE ROAD

It would be wrong to slate the Alfa as a mere Fiat Tipo in drag – not that there's anything wrong with the Tipo, which was among the sharpest-handling hatchbacks of its day. Alfa Romeo actually did quite a bit of engineering to make the Spider feel like an Alfa to drive, not only shortening the platform but also developing unique, all-new suspension based around struts and lower wishbones at the front and a multi-link set-up at the rear.

Step inside and the Alfa feels capacious, airy and upmarket. In contrast, it feels like you're wearing the Barchetta's cabin, so cosy is it. The low waistline makes it feel like you're sitting exposed, and we love the evocative body-colour door panels. While the Spider's coupe sister model, the GTV, had tiny rear seats, the

CHRIS KNOTT

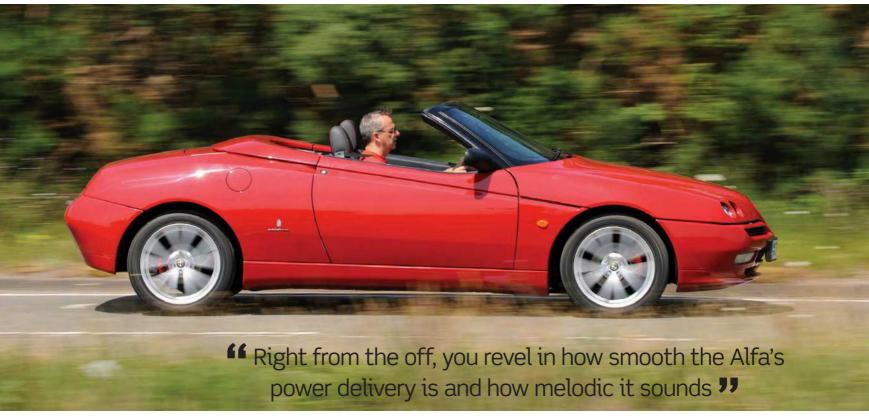
1998 Fiat Barchetta 1.8 Est Value: £4,500

Based on 52 year old male, Architect, full NCB, living in NR6 postcode, SD&P (exc. commuting), garaged, 5000 miles pa, car club member, 2nd car for everyday use.

Premium: £85.94 inc IPT Excess: £50 (exc. fee + legal cover)

Physically smaller Fiat feels nimbler around bends. 1747cc engine is a delightfully revvy unit





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1993 Alfa Romeo Spider 2.0 Est Value: £20,000

Based on 52 year old male, Architect, full NCB, living in NR6 postcode, SD&P (exc. commuting), garaged, 5000 miles pa, car club member, 2nd car for everyday use.

Premium: £105.87 inc IPT Excess: £100 (exc. fee + legal cover)

Alfa exudes a real sense of occasion: cosseting cabin, fabulous engine and great maturity on the road

Spider itself is a strict two-seater, with a folding softtop that hides neatly under a solid tonneau. It's activated by an electric motor - how posh! - while the Barchetta is hand-operated, and so simple that you wonder why car makers bothered with electric gubbins.

Time to fire the Alfa up. The 2.0-litre four-cylinder Twin Spark unit has a spec to drool over: twin balancer shafts, variable valve timing and four valves per cylinder. Right from the off, you revel in how smooth its power delivery is and how melodic it sounds. It's easy to forget that, in this era of universal turbocharging, 150hp was pretty punchy for a naturally aspirated 2.0litre engine in the 1990s.

But the 1747cc four in the Barchetta can almost match it, boasting variable valve timing and 16 valves, too, for instance. Shared with the Punto HGT, this was effectively a single-spark version of the 1.8 Twin Spark engine that saw service in many Alfa Romeos including indeed the 916 Spider (but only in continental markets, never the UK). Even with only 130hp, it is the Fiat that returns better acceleration times. The reason is clear: weight. At 1056kg, the Barchetta is almost 300kg lighter than the Alfa and that really tells in the

performance department, clawing back its 20hp power deficit to beat the Spider off the line and through the gears (for example, 30-70mph takes 8.6 seconds against the Alfa's 9.5 seconds). The Barchetta still feels torquey, too, with 90% of peak torque delivered between 2000 and 6000rpm.

However, the Alfa has it licked in the soundtrack department: while the Fiat's 1747cc twin cam is more than happy to rev right up to 7000rpm, it sounds perhaps a little ordinary next to the Alfa, which is a delight of smoothness and rorty character. If only the Spider were lighter...

Both cars have quick rack-and-pinion steering (2.1 turns lock-to-lock for the Alfa, 2.5 for the Fiat) but as soon as you hit a bump in the road, one difference really tells. The Spider's lack of rigidity compared with its fixed-head GTV stablemate means you really feel the scuttle shake, enough to make the steering wheel shiver in some very wayward directions. Ultimately this plays out in the handling department. The front-wheel drive chassis certainly delivers safe cornering and an assured stance right up until the limit of adhesion but it just lacks a bit of precision.





TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

ALFA SPIDER 2.0 TS

1970cc 4-cyl DOHC 150hp at 6200rpm

TORQUE: 185Nm (137lb ft) at 4000rpm

DIMENSIONS: 4285mm (L), 1780mm (W), 1315mm (H)

WEIGHT: 1350kg

WEIGHT: 1350kg
FUEL ECONOMY: 28mpg
MAX SPEED: 131mph
0-62MPH: 9.4 sec
PRICE IN 2000: £19,992

ENGINE: POWER:

FIAT BARCHETTA

1747cc 4-cyl DOHC 130hp at 6300rpm 164Nm (121lh ft) at

164Nm (121lb ft) at 4300rpm

3916mm (L), 1640mm (W), 1265mm (H) 1056kg

1056kg 35mpg 124mph 8.7 sec £13,815





The more rigid-feeling Barchetta has sharper turn-in and better feel through the bends. It understeers slightly more and there's sometimes a surprise lurking if you lift off in mid-corner, when the rear end can start to come round. Ultimately, though, it's very controllable and fun, with a greater sense of nimbleness and exploitability.

You don't buy a sports car for its ride comfort but in this department the Alfa clearly feels the better resolved of the two. The Fiat can get a little bouncy over bumpy terrain and fast undulating surfaces, while its in-town ride feels a bit jiggly. The Alfa is certainly firmly sprung and you do feel the bumps – as well as the attendant chassis flex we mentioned – but overall it just feels more composed. The Fiat's seats are also less supportive and harder than the Alfa's more commodious leather-upholstered chairs.

Both cars have vented front discs and solid rears, resulting in confident braking, with smooth, consistent action and good pedal feel. The Fiat suffers a little from brake fade but otherwise they're quite evenly matched here.

One small note on practicality: neither car has a particularly generous boot but I was surprised to discover that the Fiat's is actually bigger at 165 litres versus a paltry 110 litres for the Alfa. You can hardly fit a hamper in the tail of the Spider, let alone a weekend's worth of holiday bags.

VERDICT

Both these roadsters ooze Italian charm and flair, in terms of design, engineering and driveability. While they are remarkably close in some aspects, they are very different in others. The Spider feels grown-up and mature, a car for effortless cruising across sun-kissed landscapes; the Barchetta is more of a tearaway, a back-to-basics roadster.

Ultimately it's the Fiat that lives up to the sports car ideal better. It may not have the presence and maturity of the Alfa Romeo but it's faster, sharper through the bends and simply more fun to drive. We reckon its quirky lines have aged every bit as well as the Alfa's, too. So in conclusion: buy a Barchetta for the fun of it but a Spider if you want to live with it every day.

Both cars offer popular drop-top motoring in peak style. Ultimately the Fiat feels more like a sports car, Alfa more of a grand tourer



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Auto Italia Book of Records

Ancient Olympians lived by the motto 'faster, higher, stronger'.

But what about Italian cars? Our round-up of record-breakers reveals the answers

Story by Gary Axon Photography by Michael Ward

oy Castle singing the theme tune of the 1970s BBC TV programme, *Record Breakers*, struck a chord not only with children in Britain but also around the globe. In Italy, for instance, *Lo Show dei Record* devoted time to records set locally, including the world's heaviest baby (a Naples boy weighing 10.2kg) and the world's biggest pizza (measuring 1853.88 metres long and weighing over five tons). To date, we don't think anyone has come up with a set of records set by Italy's car producers over the decades. It's time to set the record straight...

BEST SELLING

FIAT 124 (OVER 20 MILLION)

When Fiat launched its 124 in 1966, few would have forecast that this straightforward but unremarkable square-cut family saloon would go on to be the world's second most popular car of all time (and Italy's most successful).

Although Fiat's in-house 124 lasted just eight years (1966-1974), it was also produced far and wide under licence. Among these were Seat in Spain, Tofas in Turkey and Premier PAL in India. But it was in Russia that Lada accounted for the bulk of Fiat 124 production, with a whopping 17,332,954 examples constructed over 43 years. Despite early Lada 1200 saloon and estate models being visually similar to their Fiat 124 siblings, the two cars differed extensively under the skin to cope with demanding Soviet roads.

With more than 20 million examples produced during its extraordinary 46-year career (1966-2012), the Fiat 124 and its derivatives rank second only to the VW Beetle (21.5 million) in the all-time rankings.

BEST SELLERS BY MAKE

Abarth 500/595/695 (2008-date): 180,000 (est)
Alfa Romeo Alfasud (1971-1988): 1,017,387
Autobianchi A112 (1969-1986): 1,254,178
Bizzarrini 5300 GT (1965-1969): 149
De Tomaso Pantera (1971-1993): 7260
Dino 206-246 (1967-1974): 3913
Ferrari 360 (1999-2004): 17,653
Innocenti Mini (1965-1975): 437,234
Intermeccanica Italia (1970-1973): 401
ISO Rivolta IR (1962-1970): 797
Lamborghini Huracán (2013-date): 17,747 (to Jun 2021)
Lancia Ypsilon (1995-2003): 804,699
Maserati Biturbo (1981-1994): 33,270

MOST POPULAR CURRENT MODEL FIAT 500 (83,000 PER YEAR)

Although outsold by the Panda in Fiat's home Italian market, the Fiat 500 has been a bigger success globally for the Turin marque. In the first quarter of 2021, total European sales amounted to 20,832, putting the 500 in the top 10 overall sales chart.









FASTEST SELLING

FIAT PUNTO MK1 (571,500 PER YEAR)

The fastest-selling Italian car of all time was the first-generation Giugiaro-styled Fiat Punto (pic right). Total production surpassed 3,429,000 over the model's sixyear life (1993-1999), meaning that average annual sales amounted to 571,500.

LONGEST LIVED FIAT 1100/1200 (47 YEARS)

With a production run spanning 47 years, the 1953-2000 Fiat 1100 (pic far right) and its 1200 sister just snatch the longest build career away from the model that indirectly replaced them, the Fiat 124 (which lived for 46 years in various modified forms). The long lifespan is because, after 16 years in its original Italian home, the mid-sized family Fiat found a second life in India with Premier Automobiles.

LONGEST LIVED MODEL NAME FIAT PANDA (41 YEARS)

The Italian car with longest-lived model name in continuous use is the Fiat Panda. First introduced in 1980, we're now at 41 years and counting. That beats the Fiat Campagnola (36 years), Fiat 126 (28 years) and De Tomaso Pantera (22 years).

SHORTEST LIVED INNOCENTI REGENT (ONE YEAR)

The Innocenti Regent (pic far right) was a thinly disguised Italian revamp of the infamous Austin Allegro. Introduced just before Christmas 1973, it left production in early 1975 after a career spanning barely more than a year. The model's appeal was seriously lacking against rivals like the Alfasud and Fiat 128. Another short-lived Italian was Maserati's Quattroporte II (1976-1978).

MOST POWERFUL AUTOMOBILI ESTREMA FULMINEA (2040HP)

Pininfarina's all-electric Battista supercar has a strong claim to be the most powerful Italian car ever produced, with 1900hp on tap. But out of nowhere, newcomer Automobili Estrema claims that its zero-emission Fulminea hypercar (pic right) has fully 2040hp. This claim is as yet unproven...

BEST POWER-TO-WEIGHT RATIO FERRARI LAFERRARI (756HP/TON)

Ferrari may not claim the most powerful Italian car title, but its LaFerrari (pic right) boasts the best power-to-weight ratio at 756hp per ton, achieved thanks to its low mass of 1255kg and big power (950hp courtesy of a 6.3-litre V12 and hybrid battery assistance).

FASTEST TOP SPEED FERRARI LAFERRARI / LAMBORGHINI AVENTADOR SV (220MPH)

The LaFerrari gets a second shout here, as Maranello's seminal hypercar boasts a claimed 220mph top speed, marginally above the Ferrari Enzo's 218mph maximum. Lamborghini responds with the Aventador SV (pic right) which shares the La Ferrari's official top speed claim of 220mph, although it has been recorded at speeds of up to 230mph.

























FASTEST NÜRBURGRING LAP LAMBORGHINI AVENTADOR SVJ (6'44")

Italy claims four of the current top 10 production car lap times around the 'Green Hell' at the Nürburgring. The Lamborghini Aventador SVJ (pic above) currently holds the outright record for a road car at an astonishing 6min 44.97sec. The Lamborghini Huracán Performante is third fastest at 6min 52:01sec, while the Lamborghini Aventador SV did it in 6min 59.73sec and the Ferrari 488 Pista in 7min 00.03sec. In 2017, the Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio topped the fourdoor saloon table with a time of 7min 21.20sec (since surpassed by Jaguar), while Alfa also held the SUV record with the Stelvio Quadrifoglio (7min 51.7sec), now beaten by Audi's RS Q8.

FASTEST ACCELERATING

FERRARI LAFERRARI / LAMBORGHINI HURACÁN PERFORMANTE & EVO (2.4SEC)

Each of the trio of Modenese hypercars listed above has a claimed o-100km/h (o-62mph) time of a 'blink-and-you-miss-it' 2.4 seconds, with independently tested times of 2.6sec and 2.9 sec also reported.

Ferrari's recent SFgo Stradale claims a competitive 2.5sec 0-62 time, with its 812 Superfast and Lamborghini Huracan EVO both taking 2.9 seconds. Still independently unverified as yet, Pininfarina claims its electric 1900hp Battista will tackle the 0-62mph dash in less than two seconds, which would take the fastest accelerating Italian car title with aplomb.

SLOWEST BMA BRIO (23MPH)

With a rorty 3hp under the driver's right foot, the three-wheeled BMA Brio microcar of the 1970s (pic far left) was Italy's alternative to a brisk walk, reaching a top speed of just 23mph.

MOST ECONOMICAL

ALFA ROMEO MITO 1.3 JDTM (83.1MPG)

Alfa Romeo's diesel-powered MiTo 1.3 JDTm (pic left) was a frugal triumph of economical motoring. Alfa's own blurb exclaimed: "You won't be disappointed to hear the gorgeous MiTo is able to produce 83.1mpg on a combined cycle; this is also known as a staggering amount." For once the marketing copy didn't lie.



LARGEST ENGINE

FIAT S76 300 HP 'BEAST OF TURIN' (28.4 LITRES)

Between 1910 and 1911, Fiat built two examples of its S76 speed record racer, subsequently nicknamed the 'Beast of Turin' (pic above). Its flame-spitting 290hp was delivered from a four-cylinder engine with fully 28,353cc, which represents over 7.1 litres per cylinder. That makes the Fiat not just the largest four-pot engine ever made, but also the biggest motor ever fitted to a production car.

MOST VALUABLE FERRARI 250 GTO (£52.3M)

The storied 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO (pic right) takes gold as the most expensive car ever sold. One example reportedly changed hands for \$70 million (£52.3m) in a private sale between German racing driver Christian Glaesel and American car parts mogul David MacNeil. Another 250 GTO holds the record for the world's highest auction hammer price, selling for \$48.4million (£34.3m) in 2018 by RM Sotheby's in Monterey. In the unlikely event that Enzo Ferrari's first ever car, the 1947 Auto Avio Costruzioni 815, ever comes up for sale, it would almost certainly set a new record, with figures as high as £100 million being conjectured.

MOST EXPENSIVE NEW CAR PAGANI ZONDA HP BARCHETTA (£15M)

When Horacio Pagani announced in 2018 that he would be building just three examples of the ultimate Zonda hypercar, the topless HP Barchetta (pic right), the retail price was reportedly around £15m. Amazingly the Zonda's eye-watering price tag has since been trumped by the one-off Bugatti La Voiture Noire (£18m) and Rolls-Royce Boat Tail (£20m).





RECORD BREAKERS

















LONGEST

BIEMME PHANTOM HEARSE (7010MM)

Italian coachbuilders are wont to stretch things to extremes. For instance, the Vecotras Maserati Quattroporte Geb hearse is fully 6700mm long – but that's still not the record. The gargantuan Rolls-Royce Phantom hearse handcrafted by Biemme (pic left) is based on a first-generation 'Goodwood' Phantom and measures a whopping 7010mm (23 feet) long, a full three feet longer than even the Phantom Extended Wheelbase model.

SHORTEST

URBANINA (1830MM)

At just 1830mm (6ft) long, the diminutive 1965-1973 Urbanina microcar (pic far left) was Italy's smallest ever car. It made even the tiny 2290mm (7.5ft) Isetta bubble car look corpulent.

HEAVIEST

FIAT OLTRE (3175KG)

Tipping (or breaking) the scales at a hefty 3175kg, the Hummer-esque Fiat Oltre prototype of 2005 (pic left) was certainly no lightweight. As for production models, the short-lived Iveco Massif 4x4 3.0 HPT Station Wagon takes the prize as Italy's heaviest at 3050kg, making Lamborghini's 2700kg LM002 and 2200kg Urus SUVs appear lightweights by comparison.

LIGHTEST BMA BRIO (135KG)

The bizarre, microscopic three-wheeler BMA Brio strikes again, weighing in at a mere 135kg.

MOST AERODYNAMIC (PRODUCTION) ALFA ROMEO GIULIA AE (CD 0.23)

Enzo Ferrari once famously remarked that aerodynamics were for people who couldn't build engines, but other Italians placed more importance on streamlining. The Alfa Romeo Giulia boasts Italy's lowest current coefficient of drag (Cd) at 0.25, but the Giulia 'AE' (Advanced Efficiency) version (pic left) offered from 2016 to 2019 went one step further with its 5mm lower ride height and unique wheels: its Cd was 0.23.

MOST AERODYNAMIC (PROTOTYPE) FIAT TURBINA (CD 0.14)

Europe's first gas turbine-powered prototype, Fiat's 8001 Turbina of 1954 (pic left) was a futuristic aerodynamic coupe featuring a mid-mounted 296bhp turbine powerplant. The Turbina's aerodynamic body was claimed to have a (rather questionable) Cd of just 0.14 thanks to extensive testing in the wind tunnel of the Turin Polytechnic. Capable of 175mph, the concept was soon shelved due to high fuel use and overheating problems.

OLDEST SURVIVING ITALIAN CAR MAKER FIAT (122 YEARS)

Although the Stefanini-Martina is believed to be the very first Italian car ever made (in 1896), this was a marque that soon failed. Its marginally younger Turinbased rival Fiat (Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino) began life in 1899 and went on to become one of the world's largest and most important vehicle makers and is still thriving today, 122 years later.

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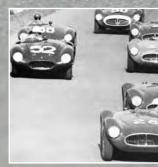
Ferrari pursued the idea of four-cylinder engines in a host of different settings. In 1954 it took its Grand Prix-winning four-cylinder unit and put it into a new sports-racer.

The 500 Mondial proved a true world-beater

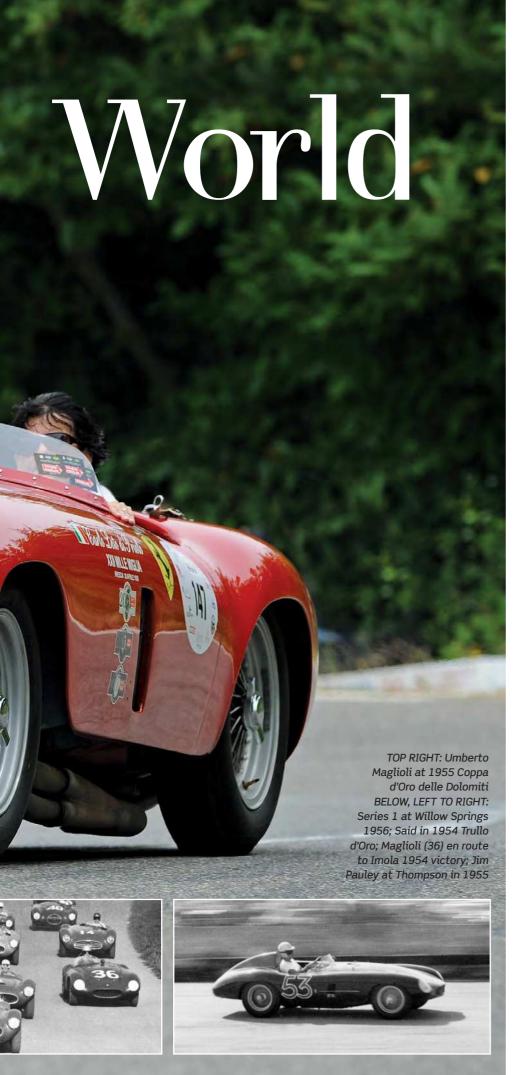














he years 1952 and 1953 were great for Ferrari. In 1953 it shrugged off challenges from Jaguar, Aston Martin and Cunningham to win the first-ever FIA World Championship for Sports Cars. With its big 4.5-litre sports-racers and superb driver cadre, Ferrari was king of the heavy metal. Ferraris dominated the popular 2.0-litre sports category as well, the 166 MM V12 easily having the measure of all-comers.

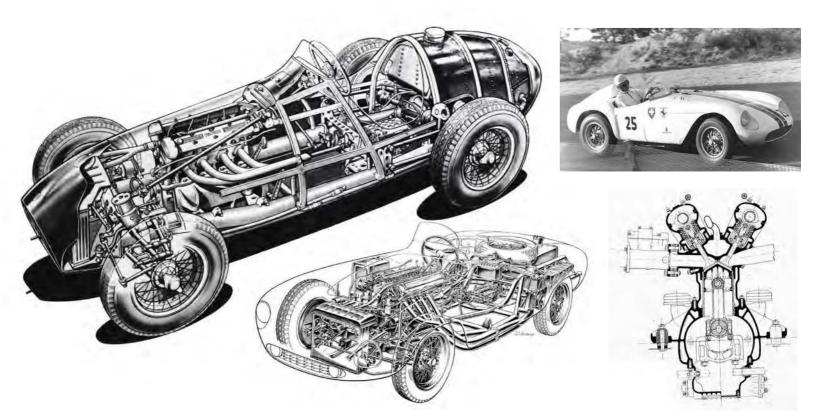
Those two seasons also witnessed Ferrari triumphing in Formula Two racing, which was standing in for the abandoned Formula One as host of the World Drivers' Championship. That apogee of global road racing was won by Alberto Ascari in the Ferrari 500 F2. Aurelio Lampredi designed this masterwork from scratch, the most intricate four-cylinder twin-cam engine ever created. Using Ferrari's designation system, the '500' represented the nominal capacity of one cylinder.

1954 saw Formula Two given a rest while Formula One moved to a 2.5-litre limit. For this, Lampredi designed completely new four-cylinder engines, in contrast to the sixes and eights of its rivals. Why did Lampredi recant from his advanced V12 in world-class racing? One reason, wrote Gianni Rogliatti, was that Enzo Ferrari was "extremely open to all the proposals put forward by those who worked with him and was willing to test anything that could reasonably be tested." Enzo subjected his early engines to a ruthless Darwinian selection process: only the most worthy would survive. Lampredi would even design and test a two-cylinder engine for F1!

Left behind in the rush to new F1 engines were the fours that powered the Championship-winning Ferraris of 1952 and 1953. It cannot be overlooked that, with the end of the 2.0-litre Formula Two, Ferrari found himself with a storehouse full of Tipo 500 F2 engines and transaxles for which he had no immediate requirement. Recycling them into 2.0-litre sportsracers was both cost-effective and potentially successful in racing, especially as the cars would be largely intended for private owners.

The chassis of the new generation of four-cylinder sports-racing Ferraris were so similar that it was easy to convert a smaller one to a bigger one and vice versa. To distinguish it from its single-seater sister, the 'Mondial' name was added to the 2.0-litre Tipo 500 sports car to honour the two World Championships won by its powertrain and suspension.

Lampredi avoided cylinder-head gasket problems by unifying the head and block in an aluminium casting that extended downward three-quarters of the



cylinder's length. Screwed into this head/block unit, reaching up to its combustion chambers, were four cast-iron wet cylinders. Bore and stroke of gomm and 78mm gave 1985 cc in an engine designated the Tipo 110. Stems of the two valves per cylinder were symmetrically inclined at an included angle of 58 degrees. Giving a compression ratio of 8.5:1,

the five main bearings, 63mm in diameter instead of the Formula Two engine's 60mm in the interest of endurance-race reliability.

Carrying a forged-steel crankshaft with integral counterbalancing masses, Vandervell Thinwall bearings were of equal width, save for a broader centre main. I-section connecting rods were forged of

TOP LEFT: Suspension, engine and rear-mounted transaxle all came from this 500 F2 Ferrari. TOP: Gaston Andrey's 1957 Mondial had headrest and long snout. ABOVE: Tipo 110 four-cylinder cutaway

The Mondial came at a time of rapid evolution in racing body design. Fresh impulse came from Alfredo Ferrari

aluminium pistons were full-skirted.

Grooves at the bottom of the cylinders carried O-rings that sealed the bores into the top of the crankcase. Cast of aluminium, the latter extended down to the bottom of the engine, which was enclosed by a shallow aluminium sump. Internal ribs supported

steel. The dry-sump lubrication system had two geartype pumps: one for pressure and the other a triplegear pump to give an excess of capacity for scavenging, picking up oil at two locations.

Gear trains at the front of the 500 Mondial's engine ran upward to the twin camshafts and downward to



the oil and water pumps. Above the latter was a major addition to the F2 engine: a transverse case of magnesium carrying shaft and bevel gears that drove three vertical Marelli instruments: a central dynamo and two magnetos or distributors to supply dual ignition. Carburation was by two Weber 40DCOA3 dual-throat units on the right, with efficient blended-pipe exhaust manifolding on the left.

Carried over to the 500 Mondial was the Tipo 500's elaborate valvegear, housed in individual magnesium cam boxes bolted to the cylinder block. The valves were closed by hairpin-type valve springs while mushroom-shaped tappets had their own coil springs to hold them against the cam lobes. The latter were very narrow, as they had only to contact large-diameter rollers set into the top faces of the tappets. This elaborate belt-and-braces mechanism was created by Lampredi expressly to eliminate valve-gear problems, in which he was largely successful.

Ferrari initially rated the 500 Mondial's engine at 160hp at 7000rpm. Powering the first 20 Mondials, this Tipo 110 engine was uprated during 1954 with bigger 42mm carburettors and a compression ratio raised to 9.2:1, resulting in 170hp at 7200rpm. Encased in a bell housing was a twin-disc clutch, from which the drive was through an engine-speed propshaft to a rearmounted transaxle like the Tipo 500's. Initially this housed four forward speeds. The transaxle had its own pressure-oil pump and a ZF limited-slip differential for the final drive. The latter was driven by a set of stepup gears from the longitudinal transmission shafts, allowing the gearbox to be placed as low as possible.

Aurelio Lampredi carried over the single-seater's de Dion rear suspension to the 500 Mondial. This used a curved steel tube to join the rear-wheel hubs by a solid axle that was relieved of the weight and torque effects of a live axle. Controlled laterally by a bronze block sliding in a groove in the back of the differential housing, its hubs were guided by parallel radius rods at each side.

Springing was by transverse leafs and adjustable Houdaille dampers at both front and rear. Placed low at the front, the transverse leaf was linked to the parallel suspension wishbones. Unequal in length, the wishbones were made up of pairs of forged-steel arms. The longer lower wishbones compressed soft rubber buffers that gave the springing a rising rate. Forward-facing steering arms were connected by a three-piece track rod linkage to a worm-and-wheel steering box on the right-hand side.

Shared as they were with the bigger-engined 750 Monza, the 500 Mondial's brakes were 350mm by 48mm. Mechanisms were two-leading-shoe at both front and rear, applied by twin master cylinders. Sixteen-inch Borrani wire wheels carried tyre sections of 5.50 in front and 6.00 at the rear. For its 500 Mondial Ferrari quoted a dry weight of just 720kg.

The 500 Mondial came into being at a time of rapid evolution in racing Ferrari body design. A fresh impulse came from Enzo Ferrari's son Alfredo ('Dino'), to whom his father gave a spare 166 MM chassis. To clothe it, Dino came up with some ideas of his own to be executed by local coachbuilder Sergio Scaglietti, who had crafted bodywork for Scuderia Ferrari before the war and set up his own carrozzeria in 1952. He and Dino conceived an aggressive and fluid line for the 166 MM.







Based on this design, with its unusually small fishlike cooling-air intake, Scaglietti bodied the works cars that scored early 1954 successes for the 500 Mondial. Soon, however, Ferrari turned to Pinin Farina to body its customer Mondials, the first of which appeared in time for the Mille Miglia of May 1954. Pinin Farina's 500 Mondial bodies had a personality of their own with forward-thrusting snouts, speedlines along the flanks and exposed rows of rivets on panel junctions.

A dozen Series 1 Mondials had Pinin Farina bodies. The Turin coachbuilder also made two clean-lined Berlinettas on the Series 1 chassis. Both started in the 1954 Tour de France but failed to finish, only one going on to a few 1955 appearances.

Towards the end of first-series Mondial production in 1954, body manufacture was taken over by Scaglietti, who refined and sharpened the lines originated by Dino

Immaculate Series 1 500 Mondial by Pininfarina (chassis 0448MD) on display at the 2019 Riyadh Global Auto Salon

Ferrari. Six Series 1 500 Mondials were Scagliettibodied, plus eight Series 2 chassis.

As usual for Ferrari, the new type was given its debut by a factory team to secure its reputation. No less a pairing than Ascari and Villoresi drove the original car, 0404MD, to second overall behind a big Ferrari V12 in a 12-hour race at Casablanca on 20 December 1953. This Ferrari raced in Africa again in early 1954, François Picard winning his class at Agadir in February and Maurice Trintignant doing likewise at Dakar in March, placing second overall. A similar result fell to Picard at Marrakech in April. In four of the new Ferraris for the Mille Miglia were Elio Neri, Franco Cortese, Enrico Sterzi and the oldest of the racing Marzotto brothers, Vittorio. Like the experienced Cortese he tackled the 992-mile race solo.

The outcome could not have been closer. Vittorio Marzotto had his problems, including an unwanted change of spark plugs ("It's going fine!" he protested). His time at the finish was 12:00:01—nine seconds faster than Luigi Musso's new Maserati after half a day's racing. Marzotto was second overall with the 500 Mondials of Cortese and Sterzi finishing 14th and 15th overall and fourth and fifth in class.

In the 156-mile inaugural race for Imola's new circuit on 20 June, Robert Manzon set the fastest lap in a 500 Mondial in a race won in a similar car by Umberto Maglioli, with Musitelli second in an updated 166 MM/53. At Collemaggio on 4 July, Franco Cortese's Mondial was second, sandwiched between Maseratis.

In Northern Ireland on the demanding Dundrod road circuit, both marques raced for the Tourist Trophy on 11 September. A Maserati driven by Musso and Mantovani finished third behind a Lancia D24 and Ferrari 750 Monza; four laps behind in ninth place was a 500 Mondial driven by Americans Bob Said and Masten Gregory. Theirs was the last of the Series 1 Mondials, given a refined interpretation of the Scaglietti bodywork.

Maranello would produce a Series 2 version of its 500 Mondial from January 1955 to compete against Maserati's upgrade of its stalwart six. Although commercially sound, Ferrari's use of the same chassis for sports-racers in two categories – what we would call 'platform sharing' – worked to the disadvantage of the smaller-engined version. All elements of the car from chassis to brakes and driveline had to be sized and stressed to suit the bigger and faster 750 Monza model with half as much horsepower again.

The Series 2 chassis gained useful improvements. Although the chassis continued as a twin-tube structure with central X-bracing, its oval main tubes were reshaped to improve stiffness through the cockpit and at the rear, while it also had five speeds in the rear-mounted transaxle. Lampredi made major changes at the front, too. For the Spanish Grand Prix the previous October he equipped his Tipo 553 Squalo GP car with new coil-sprung front suspension. A big success on the Squalo, the coil suspension was used across the board on Ferrari's 1955 racers.

Nestling between the front chassis rails was a heavily overhauled engine, the Tipo 111, that reflected Lampredi's latest thinking. Instead of the 58-degree valve angle of the Series 1, the Series 2 had an 85-degree angle with inlet valves at 45 degrees from the vertical and exhausts at 40





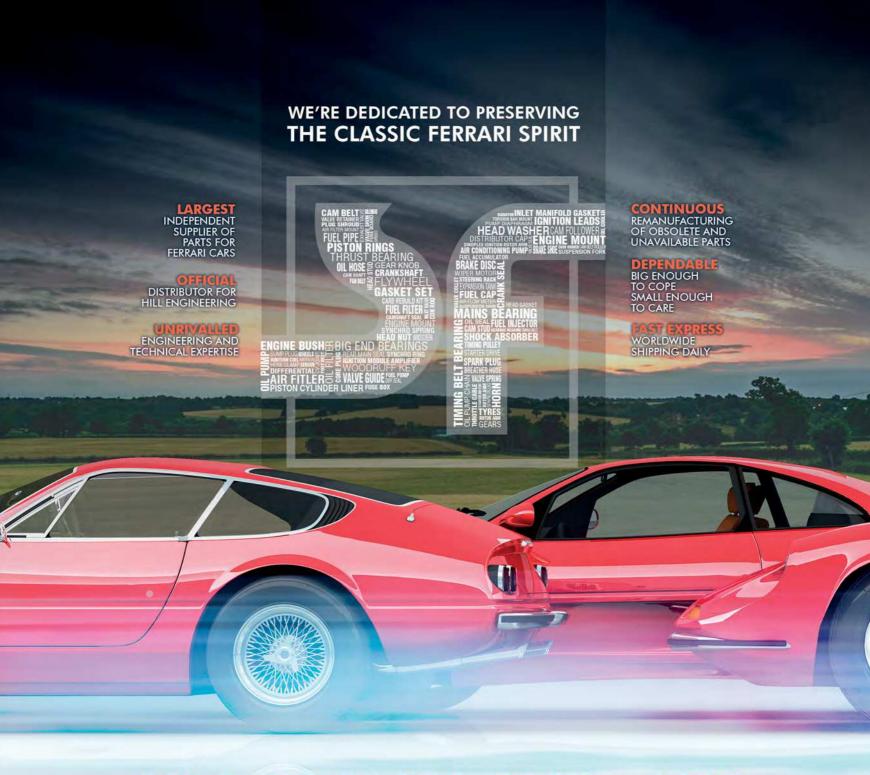


degrees. The deeper combustion chamber that resulted constrained the new engine's compression ratio to 8.5:1 instead of the previous 9.2:1.

The four-cylinder unit breathed through 40mm Weber twin-throat side-draught carburettors with 36mm venturis; one car had larger 42 mm Webers. A nine-disc clutch with alternating steel and aluminium plates accepted the Tipo 111's output, which was 170hp at 680orpm. Maximum torque of 150lb ft was delivered at 500orpm, 400rpm lower than its Tipo 110 predecessor.

For the last six Series 1 500 Mondials, Scaglietti produced a more slippery body shape. Front anti-roll bar is just visible





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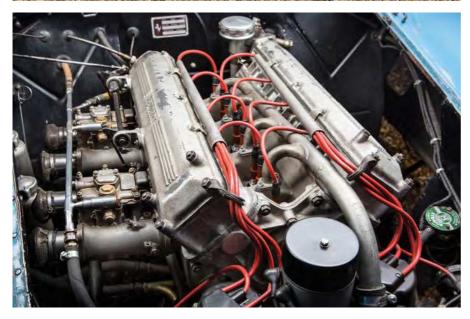


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Scaglietti-bodied Series 2 Tipo 500 Mondial. Now with coil ignition rather than magnetos, the S2's Tipo 111 four had a much wider overhead valve 'vee'

Influenced as it was by the thinking of Dino Ferrari, with its long tail and down-sloping snout, the late-1954 500 Mondial body shape was carried over to the 1955 models. The tail was enlarged to accommodate a larger 39.6-gallon fuel tank. Scaglietti made the bodies for the 10 Series 2 500 Mondials that Ferrari produced from January to August 1955. Apart from chassis number 0560, which was used initially as a works car before being sold, all were delivered to private owners.

On 27 February 1955, the first of the Series 2 500 Mondials made its bow at Morocco's Agadir, where Mario Della Favera won his class. In another African race uncontested by major Maseratis, Dakar, Belgian

Jacques Swaters was class winner in an older Mondial. In the Giro di Sicilia in April, Mario Della Favera in his Mondial Series 2 prototype took fourth place and 2.0-litre class laurels.

The Mille Miglia on 30 April was a hecatomb for Ferrari. Four new Series 2 Mondials retired, Della Favera's while leading the class. This marked the beginning of a reputation of unreliability for the new model, whose conrods in particular were suspect.

Modena's two champions regrouped for a battle royal at Monza on 29 May in the Supercortemaggiore Grand Prix for sports cars over 1000km. The 2.0-litre class was contested by ten Maseratis and seven Ferraris, four of the latter the new Series 2 Mondials. Of these, two retired and two placed eighth and tenth overall (third and fourth in class).

The Shell-sponsored Imola race on 19 June was over 156 miles of flat-out racing for Italy's 2.0-litre bragging rights. Umberto Maglioli was second in a brand-new works Series 2 500 Mondial, 21.5 seconds behind a Maserati, with Harry Schell third in an older Mondial.

In July, Eugenio Castellotti took over the factory Mondial, winning the 15.2-mile Bolzano-Mendola hillclimb, demoting Maseratis into second and third. One week later he was second overall in the Coppa Dolomiti, just 21 seconds behind Olivier Gendebien's Mercedes-Benz 300SL. This so impressed Enzo Ferrari that one week later the Belgian rally ace found himself behind the wheel of the works Series 2 in the Aosta-Gran San Bernardo hillclimb. Gendebien justified his first-ever Ferrari ride with second overall, splitting two 3.0-litre cars.

Some big events remained in 1955 to test the Modena combatants. In the Targa Florio in October, one 500 Mondial accepted the challenge: a Series 1 in the hands of Franco Cortese and Antonio Pucci, which retired. This completed a season in which Maseratis, pairing power with reliability, finally shrugged off Ferrari's latest challenge.

As for private entrants, among the first in America were John von Neumann, Bob Drake, Bob Said, Bruce Kessler and Dominican diplomat-playboy Porfirio Rubirosa. Phil Hill drove one at Torrey Pines and Indy racer Pat O'Connor competed at Willow Springs. On the East Coast, Jim Pauley was an advocate, while Chuck Hassan, Bob Goldich and Paul Norair were also Mondial drivers.

Paul Norair's Pininfarina-bodied 0430MD was bought by Mike Garber for Swiss racer Gaston Andrey to drive in 1957, who raced his Mondial 14 times, including winning the SCCA's E Modified Championship. The busiest chassis was John von Neumann's 0438MD, making 26 appearances including some by his wife Josie.

Ironically, while Maserati was abandoning its live axle to adopt de Dion suspension for 1956, Ferrari was doing just the opposite. With Lampredi having joined Fiat, Vittorio Bellentani came aboard to save 40kg by removing the Mondial's complex and heavy transaxle-cum-de Dion arrangement in favour a coil-sprung live axle for Ferrari's 2.0-litre sports cars.

The new model was dubbed the 500 TR, standing for 'Testa Rossa', its cylinder head and cam covers finished in bright red. But that's another story. The way to the TR was paved by the 500 Mondial, this feisty and handsome offspring of a double World Champion.



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Oldie But Goodie

Being competitive in a classic car in a race series intended for modern cars takes skill and clever preparation. We track-test George Osborne's V6-powered 75 at Silverstone to find out how

Story by Roberto Giordanelli Photography by Michael Ward & Guy Swarbrick







otor racing means ducking and diving, the confidence to change plans in an instant. With this comes racecraft, which is quite different to driving fast in a race or on a track day. The best cars to help with racecraft, as well as providing pleasure, are those that handle well and are capable of said ducking and diving.

With this in mind, I'm wondering about the black beast lurking in the Silverstone pit garage. It is a common misconception to equate power and speed with fun and enjoyment. The faster you go on, the more fun you'll have, right? Well, actually, no. It is far more complicated than that. Pleasure derives from the satisfaction that you are getting the best from yourself and your car, that the car you are racing can be pushed beyond the limit and still be saved. This enables the driver to race properly. The ultimate goal is winning – and George Osborne's Alfa Romeo 75 V6 is certainly a winner.

George built his racer from a road car in a shed. He is a one-man band, one of a diminishing number of multiskilled individuals who can build a successful race car and know how to drive it. Constructing a racing Alfa Romeo is much more difficult than more mainstream cars that have a host of specialist companies ready with all the parts you need. With Alfa Romeos, you can't simply place an order and the next day all the right kit will be on your doorstep. But things are better than they used to be. Today, tucked away near Goodwood Motor Circuit, there is a flourishing Alfa Romeo racing community. There's Chris Snowdon (CSR Racing), who with Richard Melvin is now manufacturing specialist Alfa racing parts for global despatch. And just three miles away is another Alfa specialist, Alex Jupe Motorsport. Nip further along the south coast and you'll find Peter Smart Classic Alfas.

Chris Snowdon and Richard Melvin joined George to meet us at Silverstone to show us around this racewinning Alfa 75. Road-going Alfa 75s were manufactured from 1985 to 1992 as the last of Alfa's rear-wheel drive saloons (until the current Giulia) and many have called the 75 the last real Alfa Romeo. Works racing Alfa 75s had either naturally aspirated 3.0-litre V6 engines or 1.8 four-cylinder turbos. The V6 cars were rather heavy. And while the turbo cars were lighter, they had reliability problems if run with high boost because the aluminium Alfa Nord twin cam block was not rigid enough for serious power. If



braced with steel plates and scaffold poles, 300hp was OK but moving up to 500hp resulted in blow-ups, oil slicks, smoke and shrapnel.

George's car has a pretty much stock 3.2-litre 24V V6 producing 220hp at the wheels. It weighs 1135kg, resulting in a power-to-weight ratio of 194hp per tonne. That means it can race in the Alfa Romeo series ARCA Power Trophy, which is open to Alfa Romeos, Fiats and Lancias running to a power-to-weight ratio of 195hp per tonne at the wheels (for non-turbo petrol cars) or 175hp per tonne (diesels and turbo cars).

At the time of writing, George is leading the ARCA Power Trophy championship in a close battle with Tom Hill's Alfa GT 3.2. The front-wheel drive versus rearwheel drive battles always make for exciting



dynamics. That a 30-year old car can be competitive in a modern championship like this is remarkable and we can only hope that George's success will bring more older cars into the championship.

George and the team are currently planning to modify the car to move into historic racing. This would require a full-race 3.0 V6 12V engine, with power raised to 300hp. Losing some weight would also be advantageous, which could increase the power-to-weight ratio to 270hp per tonne. The 75 would then be eligible for the world's most prestigious races for period Touring Cars, and organisers like Motor Racing Legends would also welcome it. A switch to historics would also add significantly to the car's value and enable the car to race at the world's best race circuits.

ABOVE LEFT: Roberto Giordanelli and George Osborne in pre-run discussion. ABOVE: Chris Snowdon checks tyre temps at Silverstone

CSR looked at the set-ups used by early Alfa 75
Touring Cars in the late 1980s and in particular the
BTCC cars of Alfa Romeo Dealer Team



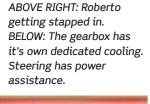
ALFA ROMEO 75 V6 RACER



suspension is quite special, with everything upgraded by CSR, which helped to develop the suspension with George. In its early configuration, George went down the tubular route with front upper and lower wishbones, deleting the torsion bars and running a full coilover set-up with standard uprights, while the rear was left pretty standard. Several issues were identified, including spindle flex and a lack of front tyre temperature.

CSR looked at the set-ups used by early Alfa 75 Touring Cars in the late 1980s and in particular the BTCC cars of Alfa Romeo Dealer Team. These were a direct development of the previous season's GTV 6 and initially the GTV 6 suspension was directly transplanted. This had shortcomings when transposed into the 75 but made a good starting point for George's car. The biggest change up front was the use of an Alfa 6 upright, which has a much bigger spindle and inner bearing, and limits the flex caused by the larger loads of big brakes and wide slicks. Positive geometry changes were made by using the factory steel wishbones and mounting the uprights on top of the wishbones, plus a height-matched ball joint on the upper arm. The effect was a straighter lower wishbone and more rising rate camber when cornering.

"I would love to say we developed it all using computer simulations," says Richard Melvin, "but we actually copied the original front set-up from the Dealer Team Cars. Jon Dooley had given me the















complete suspension kit from his 75 that had been removed from the car in 1987 and had been on a shelf waiting to be measured and reproduced. These are all stock parts at CSR now."

The Quantum Racing dampers are bespoke to George's car and a development of the QRS shocks that are sold by CSR as a kit. George is also running an ex-Dealer Team 'Shankle' rear anti-roll bar for the dry setting that also came from Jon Dooley. Yokohama 230/610 17 slicks are mounted on Team Dynamics 17x7 wheels.

Up front are AP front brakes, while the inboard rear brakes have their own cooling system. With inboard rear brakes, the transmission heats the brakes, and the brakes heat the transmission, so a cooler is essential. Aerodynamic aids include a deep front spoiler/splitter and a big boot spoiler.

The standard rear-mounted gearbox/transaxle on the 75 was just about acceptable for road use. For racing, it was the car's Achilles heel. When manufacturers like Ferrari, Maserati and Porsche used a transaxle, they fitted a torque tube, a large chunk of steel that joins the front-mounted engine to the rearmounted gearbox. The propshaft rotates at engine speed inside the torque tube but without such a tube, the engine and transaxle wobble about independently creating all sorts of shock loads. Think of it like a disorderly heavyweight boxing match with a tiny referee. The little ref is in the middle trying to control the heavyweights who won't stop slugging it out. Richard Melvin and CSR have special clutch housings, and countless more components for racing Alfas. An external steel cage to reinforce the clutch housing is an old trick to stop the housing from breaking. Whilst racing in the 1980s on Snetterton's old Revett Straight, I witnessed Tim Stewart's Alfa GTV 6 clutch and flywheel assembly slice through the floorpan and exit the car through a side window!

George's car has been fitted with a CSR-supplied close-ratio non-synchro straight-tooth racing transmission. It runs an uprated limited slip diff and a

new, uprated twin-plate clutch. The dog 'box runs homologated gear ratios that are pretty close-set: first is 2.57, second 1.94, third 1.55, fourth 1.22 and fifth 1.0. After some initial races, gearbox temperatures were getting very high so a gearbox oil cooler has been fitted to keep them under control, again sourced from CSR (www.alfettagtv6.co.uk).

Time for our test drive at a superbly organised track day courtesy of Ed Moore's Motorsport Events. It takes a couple of laps to warm the slick tyres enough to lean on them, and then maybe another lap or two before they are toasty enough to really push. By now, the transmission oil has warmed up enough to switch the pump on and send the oil through the rear cooler. The car is slightly front-heavy, which is OK: it means that if the tail steps out, it is easily caught. Corner exit traction is very good for a rear-drive car. The power band is wide, with up-changes at 650orpm, or 7000rpm when racing. The gearshift on a 75 is never going to be perfect, but in this case, it is good enough thanks to the slack in the gear linkage being removed and the right spring loadings for the five-speed gate being used.

George has fitted electric power steering to the car, which may seem surprising. Many a time I have had disagreements with a co-driver about the appropriate effort to turn a steering wheel. Steering effort can be adjusted by changing the caster angle: more caster equals more weight. More caster also delivers more straight-line stability and useful camber gain as the steering angle increases. However, some cars can have minimal caster angle and still suffer from excessively heavy steering. I remember driving a works BMW Touring Car in South Africa that had impossibly heavy steering. Arriving at a corner, I took a deep breath and used all my strength to apply steering input. I had no idea what was happening at the tyre contact patch. This was an extreme case but is an example of how heavy steering can remove driver finesse. It can mean confusing steering weight with the tyre reaching its limit. With light steering, believe it

ABOVE: George regularly dices with much more modern machinery in the ARCA Power Trophy – and has proven very competitive





TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

ALFA ROMEO 75 V6 RACING CAR

3179cc 24-valve V6 93mm x 78mm

BORE X STROKE: FUEL SYSTEM: OMEX 710 management fuel and ignition OMEX 710 management fuel and ignition
220hp at 6800rpm (at the wheels)
250lb ft at 5200rpm (est)
5-speed close-ratio dog 'box, LSD
Double wishbones, anti-roll bar and stabiliser (front)
De Dion, anti-roll bar (rear)
AP vented discs, 320mm (front), 260mm (rear)
1135kg
138mph (est)
4.7sec (est) POWER: TORQUE:

TRANSMISSION: SUSPENSION:

BRAKES:

WEIGHT: MAX SPEED: 0-62MPH:





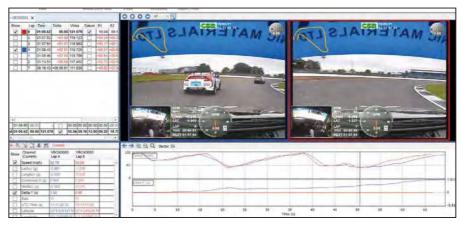


or not, there is more feel – and George's electric steering modification is a good one.

Time to push on. The track was busy with modern high-powered and lightweight modified cars circulating at speed. It quickly became obvious that George's 35-year-old car was not only the oldest car on track but also the quickest. This meant much overtaking and, as you may know, there are strict rules at track days about overtaking. I never got anywhere near a clear lap, so no meaningful lap time was recorded. However, later in the day when track traffic reduced, Chris Snowdon managed a clear lap with a time that was good enough to deliver a race win.

The team asked me my thoughts on understeer in slow corners like the more-than-180-degree turn that is Luffield. They know that to dial out understeer at Luffield would induce excessive oversteer at Coppice and other fast corners. My solution was to change driving styles at each corner to suit the changes in handling characteristics. For example, at Luffield, I trailbraked into the turn, adding weight to the nose to eliminate understeer. Once into the U-shaped turn, I used a more V-shaped line to eliminate understeer on the way in and also give a straighter and faster exit from Luffield. This enables the car to carry more straight-line speed all the way to Coppice.

My conclusion is that this 75 is a user-friendly racing car that can be driven hard with impunity. By user-friendly, I mean user-friendly for racing. While this Alfa is almost capable of passing an MOT, it would be traumatic to drive on the road. Well done, George. Where would UK motorsport be without men in sheds?









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CHRIS REES

ALFA ROMEO SZ & GIULIA QUADRIFOGLIO

o here's a cycle that many classic car owners will recognise. Car comes out of winter hibernation for a service and MOT; car is diagnosed with multiple 'issues'; car spends summer having 'issues' resolved; car is fixed just in time to be to go back into hibernation. Car has cost an arm and a leg. Car has not been driven.

So it has been with the Alfa SZ. After not being used for pretty much the whole of 2020 (for obvious reasons), I was expecting a few niggles come service time at Alfa Aid back in April this year. What I actually got was a list that could stretch to Milan and back.

The most serious issue was a leaking fuel tank. The problem with the SZ tank is that it is supported at its base by a foam pad which unfortunately allows condensation to gather. That caused not only pinprick rust holes in the tank but also some corrosion in the boot floor. Removing the tank was the first issue: it has to come out via the bootlid and there's about 1mm to spare each side. The second issue is that

the tank is unique to the SZ and of course spares do not exist. Luckily an expert repair was possible to both the tank and boot floor.

The SZ was also due a cambelt change and inevitably, when inspected, the hydraulic belt tensioner was found to be weeping. Alfa Aid's solution is to replace the original hydraulic system with a mechanical conversion. It's not cheap but it's definitely superior.

Some other lovely problems... One of the headlights had acquired a crack. Replacements are virtually impossible to find and very pricey (a swingeing £475 fitted).

o the The radiator was replace ares along with the power steering pipe; a bent radiator support was refabricated; the slow passenger electric window mechanism was

and several gaskets were renewed.

That has all brought the car back to where it should be. One definite upgrade has been extensive rust-preventing zinc coating on the underside. We all know

the SZ has plastic

repaired; the front lower

ball-joint and rear brake

hoses were replaced; an

incorrectly fitted rear

bumper bolt was drilled

out and refitted; the air

con was regassed;

bodywork but the underside is still all-metal and now seemed a good moment to protect it. Another improvement has been to fit new Goodyear Eagle F1 SuperSport tyres up front, which give a much sharper feel than my old Kumho Ecstas.

The whole experience made me wonder if now might be time to move the car on. Of course, when driving the SZ home, I instantly fell back in love with it – the exhaust sound, the handling feel, seeing its shape reflected in plate glass windows on the high street. Maybe I'll have one last jaunt in it to Italy and back and then

















put it up for sale...

Meanwhile the Giulia Quadrifoglio continues to impress. I've only done 7500 miles in it in 18 months but every one has been joyous. I've now fitted Eagle F1 SuperSports all round and there are several notable differences compared to the OE Pirellis. In cold and wet weather, the grip is definitely superior; that's something I've always felt nervous about. They have also decreased the Ackermann effect, where the front tyres scrabble around on full lock at low speed. I would say the Pirellis probably offer better grip on a hot track day but as an everyday, all-season tyre, the Goodyears are proving to be superb.

In other news, one car has disappeared from my fleet. The Fiat Panda 100HP has sadly gone to meet its maker after being involved in a collision with one of my family members driving. Luckily no one was hurt; I can't say the same for the Panda, which was shunted at both ends.

After 10 years together, the loss is palpable. It was such a great car, definitely one of my all-time favourites: cheap to run, super-reliable and the most fun at sensible speeds of any car I've ever owned.

TOM SCANLAN

ALFA ROMEO SPIDER 2000 SERIES 2

My 'new' toy, a 1976 Series 2 Spider 2000, was bought cheap. I was outbid on the eBay auction by £100 but the successful bidder never showed up, which to me proves that I was meant to have this car! My first sight of it was when I stepped off the train to meet the owner. Never buy a car sight unseen, they say. Well, I did (not for the first time), based on the owner's up-front description. Four hours and 230 untroubled miles later, the top-down Spider was at its new home.

Untroubled, yes, except for a loud knocking underneath the seat at low revs and when negotiating sharp corners. Also, starting from cold the next day was reluctant and the first expense was a new battery. Inspection of the spark plugs was an eye-

opener: they needed a chimney sweep to clean them up. After a visit to Alfaman in North London for a proper look-over, it turns out that someone had built into the choke cable a system that simply did not let the choke be fully shut off. Weird!

Even though the car has a current MOT, this

will be a work-in-progress. There are leaks in both clutch and brake master cylinders; the propshaft needs new universal joints and carrier; and new bushes will be inserted in all suspension parts (not that it currently feels particularly bad in either ride or handling). Can't wait to drive a car that feels brand new!







CLUB ITALIA

REPORTS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND ITALIAN CAR CLUBS

Goodwood Festival of Speed

Full crowds returned for Goodwood's celebration of all things fast

Words & Images by Peter Collins/Chris Rees/Richard Betts















successful application by the Duke of Richmond's team to allow the Goodwood Festival of Speed to be run, despite Covid, as a government pilot event saw the return of four days of excitement in July. While international travel restrictions and other problems left the paddocks looking a little threadbare, a good show was put on with an impressive Italian presence.

The supercar paddock was populated by numerous Ferraris, with a combined power output of 62gohp. Five models made their UK public debut here, including the Portofino M, 812 GTS, SFgo Stradale and SFgo Spider. Meanwhile Lamborghini debuted the last-of-line Aventador LP 780-4 Ultimae on its stand, alongside the new Huracán STO. Lamborghini's utterly outthere Essenza SCV12 track car was blasted up the hill by Emanuele Pirro.

Other new car debuts included Alfa Romeo's Giulia GTA and GTAm models and the first appearance for many of the Maserati MC20 and Ghibli Trofeo. Fabrizio Giugiaro himself was on hand to drive the GFG Style Kangaroo 'hyper-SUV' up the hill. Pagani and the Pininfarina Battista were on the Italian supercar list as well, although the latter constructor is now based in Munich.

Notable Italian historics were the ex-Brian Lewis British Racing Green Alfa Romeo 8C 230 (sixth at the 1933 Nice Grand Prix), driven by Roderick Jack, along with the Don Lee Special P3 Alfa of Indianapolis fame and Julian Majzub's often campaigned 308 GP Alfa. The charismatic and lovely 1950 Ferrari 166 MM







Barchetta came with its long-term owner, Sally Mason-Styron, at the wheel. The shape of this model eventually begat the AC Cobra. Further Ferraris in action included the Halusas' 250 Breadvan and Nick Mason's famous 250 GTO with suitable registration number. This paraded under the category of 'Roger Penske - Great All Rounder'. Continuing on the Stateside theme, spectators were treated to the very rare sight of an Indianapolis Ferrari: the 1952 375 'Grant Piston Ring Special' was one of four cars created at Maranello as modified 4.5litre Grand Prix cars because that year's Indy 500 was included in the World F1 Championship. Whilst not successful, it was good to experience this car which is now in the care of the Louwman Collection in Holland. It was driven by Quirina Louwman on the Friday. Commemorating Mario Andretti, Nick Mason was out again in his Ferrari 512S which had been co-driven by the American to third in the 1970 Daytona 24 Hours and subsequently won the Sebring 12 Hours.





Included in the 'Early Endurance Racers' class was the rarely seen Alfa Romeo TZ2 of exotic car dealer Simon Kidston: chassis 750113 was originally a factory Autodelta car that featured in the 1966 Targa Florio in the hands of Enrico Pinto and Nino Todaro. Alfa Romeo was also represented in 'Tin Top Titans' class by the 1994 155 TS of Tom Andrew, the dominant car in that year's British Touring Car Championship in the hands of Gabriele Tarquini and Giampiero Simoni.

Lukas Huni's Maserati 250F and Alexander Boswell's Ferrari 500/625A headed up the 'Grand Prix Greats' class, with Jason Wright's Ferrari 156 'Sharknose' cars in action as well. Jason drove the 65-degree-engined car "because it is so much easier then the peaky 120-degree," he told Auto Italia. The Ferrari factory brought along an F2007 and a 2017 SF70H for this category. Also included was Italian racing car constructor Tatuus's Formula 3/Formula W car, powered by an Alfa Romeo 1.8-litre four-cylinder turbo engine. This one was driven by Jamie Chadwick who



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Macaluso Lancia Martinis; concours Stratos; Kimera reveal; Lambo Countach; De Tomaso Pantera; Lamborghini Essenza SCV12; Tatuus Alfa Romeo Formula W; Giugiaro in GFG Kangaroo; 1961 Sharknose F1 Ferrari; rare sighting of 1952 Indy Ferrari

took the first of these series in 2019.

There was a special treat for Italophiles in the shape of the 'Fondazione Gino Macaluso' collection of cars curated by the late Italian rally driver. From Lancia Stratos to integrale via Group C, an example of just about every Martini-liveried Lancia works competition car was present, including the uncommonly seen Group 6 LC1. Also very rarely seen in the UK was a Fiat Abarth Prototipo X1/9 rally car.

In a similar vein, perhaps, was the new Kimera EVo37, making its dynamic world debut here. We caught up with company founder, rally driver Luca Betti, at the top of the hill after his drive and he told us: "This is the first time I have ever driven this prototype, which we have only just finished. It has exceeded my expectations." Its 2.0-litre four-cylinder turbocharged-and-supercharged engine develops 500hp; designed under the guidance of Claudio Lombardi, we can confirm that it sounded incredible going up the hill.

The Cartier Style et Luxe concours included a 'Cutting Wedge Design' that was dominated







by Italiana: Lamborghini Countach, Lancia Stratos, Ferrari Boxer, Maserati Bora and a superb unmolested De Tomaso Pantera.

Fundamentally the event has changed, although perhaps it has gradually been evolving into what it is today, with classic and historic cars taking up a smaller proportion of activities. Much effort this year was devoted to establishing electric cars as valid in the eyes of the enthusiast, with a display of current (no pun intended) available examples. The FoS is now a motorfest with added historic and classic content, and it seems the public can't get enough of it.







This year I was lucky enough to blast up the hill all of four times in Italian machinery. Thursday was unique in having hay bales on the main straight to slow you down to walking the GTAm is supremely darty, and along pace, so my drive of a Huracán EVO in Verde Shock matt paint (above) was not quite the full-on blast it might have been - but still enough to remind myself what a fantastically usable supercar it is, with that V10 engine.

I'd also booked runs up the hill in the new Alfa Giulia GTA and GTAm on a super-hot Friday. GTA up first. Starting in Dynamic mode, I instantly regretted my decision, switching to Race mode on the straight, only to catch a slow-running Ineos Grenadier ahead just after Molecomb corner - doh!

Later the same day, after a long delay following an 'off' by an Alpina-BMW, I blasted off the line in the GTAm in Race mode all the way. Much better idea: the Michelin Cup Sport 2s lit up before gripping

with supreme confidence, accompanied by the full-on Akrapovic exhaust experience. Superb! Around the corners, the straight its speed was astounding. I absolutely love the GTAm...

Saturday dawned far rainier - perfect for a passenger ride in the new Ferrari SF90 Spider then, huh (below)? My driver said he would drive top-down regardless - and he was true to his word. I noted he put the manettino into 'Wet' mode and the e-manettino to 'Quali'. On such wet, narrow tarmac, I was expecting circumspection in a 1000hp car, but no: it was on the limit for most of the run, with deft adjustments of both throttle and wheel throughout to keep the four driven wheels pointing in the right direction. Fast? Er, yes. In the wet, the speedo read 115mph as we crossed the finish line. Apparently in the dry it was doing 145mph... - Chris Rees









Northern Italian Car Day

Following the success of *Auto Italia*'s inaugural Northern Italian Car Day at Raby Castle last year, it was a green light again for July 2021

Story by Phil Ward Photography by Michael Ward



he 2020 Northern Italian Car Day proved that Raby Castle was an ideal location for an Italian car event. This year the format was developed to provide a more cohesive display. Using the superb castle as a backdrop, all the cars were grouped according to marque on the freshly-cut parkland grass.

The day started rather murkily, with the



castle's crenellations shrouded in fog.
Thankfully the weather improved throughout the day and enticed more show cars to the event than the year before, as well as the welcome return of many public visitors.

Alfa Romeo was the most prominent marque here, with models ranging from a stunning white 2600 up to the bonkers Stelvio NRING, with eveything inbetween. The the hugely enthusiastic Abarth Club provided



a colourful collection of 500s, 124s and even a few very rare Puntos. The stars of the day for rarity factor were undoubtedly the blue 131 Abarth, 131 Abarth Volumetrico and immaculate red Fiat 128 Rally (which had been driven up from Kent amidst hideous weather and traffic).

Other rare Fiats included the topical Panda Italia 90 complete with 'football' hubcaps, a 500 Giardiniera, Topolino, 124 Spider, a green











X1/9 LE complete with luggage and ladder stripes, an 850 saloon and even an immaculate Croma Turbo – when was the last time you saw one of those?

Lancia was well represented with an excellent low-mileage Beta HPE ie, Delta GTie, several integrales, Montecarlos and a concours green Fulvia which came a close second place for car of the day.

The exotica flag was flown equally vigorously by Ferrari, Lamborghini and Maserati. Ferrari variants included a very shiny black 308 GT4 and a showroom fresh 488.

The accessibility of Raby Castle in County Durham from both the North and the South proved to be popular. For instance, Maserati Club President, Drummond Bone, travelled down from Aberdeen in his Ferrari 812 Superfast and former Chairman John Bennett travelled down from Edinburgh in his Maserati Indy. Meanwhile, other owners travelled up from Lincolnshire, the Midlands and Yorkshire. Mike Scarf's journey from Lincolnshire was obviously well worth the effort, as he was awarded Car of the Day for his beautifully restored Alfa Romeo Junior Zagato.





Auto Italia would like to thank all the various car clubs and organisers for the large numbers of display cars and their hard work in organising their display areas. We'd also like to give huge thanks to Raby Castle and its staff, especially Sophie Brown for helping create another great event and presenting the Car of the Day award.

Having the castle open this year as restrictions were eased, was an added bonus, as was the cut grass! Keep an eye out for next year's date and make sure you put it in your diary!



British GT Championship Mid-Season Update

All the action from Silverstone, Donington and Spa

Words by Mike Rysiecki Photos by Leigh Jones & SRO



rounds of the endurance rounds of the 2021 British GT Championship completed, now is a good time to review the recent races at Silverstone, Donington Park and Spa-Francorchamps. The longest and most prestigious race on the British GT calendar took place in June at the Silverstone '500' for the famous RAC trophy. Barwell's #63 and WPI's #18 Huracáns started the race carrying success penalties from their previous podium finishes at Brands Hatch. Reigning champion, Sandy Mitchell, who won at Silverstone in 2020, started penalty-free.

In the race, early Huracán front-runners, Leo Machitski and Dennis Lind, were able to shrug off both an opening lap spin by Machitski and their pitstop handicap to finish third on the road but second of the registered points scorers behind Barwell team-mates Adam Balon and Sandy Mitchell. The closing laps were a demonstration of pure racing skill, as Lind and Mitchell raced wheel-to-wheel and handle-to-handle with respect for each other. In the end it was Mitchell's fresher tyres and his precision positioning that gave him victory over his Danish stable-mate.

Round one winners, Michael Igoe and Phil Keen, whose Lamborghini was plagued by a mystery mechanical issue, brought home six more points to keep within striking distance of the top spot.

If Silverstone was sweet, July's round at Donington was hard to swallow for both



Barwell and WPI. On the first corner of the opening lap, Igoe was tipped into a spin by a Porsche and was collected, heavily, by an unsighted Machitski. Both of the top-three Lamborghinis were out in an instant, each with expensive-looking repairs.

A 20-second success penalty from Silverstone dropped Barwell's #1 Lamborghini from third to seventh after the pit stops, but Mitchell again demonstrated his pace by passing Lewis Proctor's McLaren and Martin Plowman's Bentley, setting the fastest lap and hassling the third place McLaren throughout the final 10 minutes.

At Spa-Francorchamps, Machitski and Lind put the disappointments of Donington behind them by bouncing back into the championship lead, claiming their maiden win with pole, fastest lap and a commanding victory. WPI delivered Lamborghini's first one-two of the season as Igoe and Keen finished second overall. In the #1 Barwell car, Balon escaped a dramatic



start-line incident and handed over to Mitchell mid-race to bring home crucial championship points in fifth position.

Machitski has been racing at the Belgian circuit since 2006 and declared it to be "my house!" After claiming pole on Saturday, he came good on his claim with a flawless performance. Barwell principal Mark Lemmer was delighted with his drivers' "calm" race. The ever-understated Lind modestly gave the credit to Machitski: "Leo did the work. I just had to bring it home."

The season is now halfway through with five races at three venues left to run. The championship rewards consistency and apart from when circumstances outside of their control have played a role, the Huracán GT3 Evo teams and drivers have been remarkably consistent. Barwell go into the second half of the championship leading the GT3 team standings with WPI in fourth. In the drivers' table, Machitski and Lind lead, Igoe and Keen are fourth, and Balon and Michell fifth.



National Alfa Day

The Alfa Romeo Owners' Club's 2021 National Alfa Day at Bicester Heritage was a monster of an event

Report by Chris Rees Images by Michael Ward



aving last taken place in 2019 at Bicester, the AROC National Alfa Day returned as one of 2021's most anticipated car events. This was fully realised with a tremendous turnout, making this easily the UK's largest Alfa Romeo event. It was a complete sell-out: an 1800-strong presence and a fantastic total of 1150 cars arriving on site – way more than 2019's total. This was all the more amazing considering this was Britain in June and the forecast was for rain (which thankfully mostly held off). And

people really travelled from far and wide, some coming all the way from Scotland and Cornwall, for instance.

There were marked for areas for each Alfa model and some of the attendances were truly impressive. This year it seems the 'must have' car was the Giulia, with over 100 in attendance, a huge proportion of those being Quadrifoglios. Perhaps the most impressive gathering, though, was Alfasuds – no fewer than 36 of them, including an ultra-rare Giardinetta (soon to be featured in *Auto Italia*). Right alongside

these were 33 examples of the 4C.

Exotics were here, too, including four 8Cs, one of which was a 1933 8C 2300 that's regularly used for touring and Mille Miglia racing. There were 2600s as well (including an SZ), a genuine 1965 Giulia GTA, Junior Zagatos and an old 1900 berlina for sale. It was equally interesting to see what models now feel like they're 'endangered' – there were only tiny numbers of 145/146s, for instance, and very few 33s and 164s. Alfa Romeo GB had an official presence with its new car range on display, plus a personal appearance by



















Alfredo Santucci's 75 1.8 and Robert

Gregory's white 939 Spider but the clear

winner was Paul Curry's modified 147 GTA

Damien Dally, Alfa Romeo's boss in the UK. TV star Vicki Butler-Henderson (pictured far left) was an inspired invitation to the event. She was, as ever, natural and genuine with everyone as she went about her official walkabout duties, chatting to owners (and even their dogs), making plenty of people's day. Using a PA system, owners were interviewed live, and plenty of engines were heard revving – the likes of Mike Stark's 156 3.8 V6 hillclimb car, Geoff Gordon's 1959

Giulietta Ti racer and Jamie Porter's barking mad MiTo racer. The 'virtual racing' van was tremendously popular with around 80 people competing and plenty of kids clearly enjoying the SIM racing.

competing and plenty of kids clearly
enjoying the SIM racing.
The concours competition featured
about 20 cars, both classics and moderns.
The overall winner was Mitch Clayton's
155 V6 which he's owned from new and is in absolutely spotless condition. In the
Show & Shine event, highlights included

in metallic red with gold wheels. This was just one of many modified Alfas, highlights including a host of modded MiTos and
Darmesh Mistri's amazing 159 Sportwagon.
Vicki handed over the prizes to the delighted winners. We can only imagine what 2022's event might be like in a (hopefully) Covid-free world.









London Concours

Italian cars shined in the City of London

Report by Gary Axon







ith three sold out days, 7500 guests, over 100 cars and almost a dozen special concours and celebration classes, this year's London Concours – held in June at the tranquil Honourable Artillery Company HQ in the City of London – was a great success. A selection of outstanding Italian machinery was bound to feature, and sure enough, the event didn't disappoint.

A concours class dedicated to Italian Berlinettas was a real highlight, including some mouth-watering gems. A very popular exhibit was a better-than-new 1969 Fiat Dino 2400 Coupe. A trio of stunning Ferraris also impressed: a 1966 275 GTB6/C, a 1961 250 GTE and the ex-Stirling Moss 1961 250 GT







SWB 'SEFAC Hot Rod' – the famous blue 'Number 7' example eventually taking the Chairman's Award.

There was also a 1968 Lamborghini 400GT 2+2, a 1969 Maserati Ghibli (the class winner), a 1968 ISO Grifo GL365, a Touring-bodied 1961 Lancia Flaminia GT Coupe, a pair of impressive Alfa Romeo Giuliettas (a 1960 Sprint Speciale and 1961 Sprint Zagato), plus an unusual fit for the class, a magnificent green 1971 De Tomaso Mangusta.

A 200mph Club display brought the Italian exotic content more up to date with a spectacular 2007 Pagani Zonda F Clubsport, supported by a Lamborghini Diablo GT and Murciélago, plus a quartet of Ferrari hypercars: 1991 F40 (the class winner), 1996 F50, 2004 Enzo and 2016 LaFerrari.





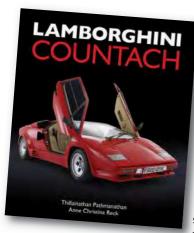


Thursday also saw a new Supercar Day with an extra 60 cars from the Drivers Union club on site. There were plenty of Ferraris in attendance, including Testarossa, 575 and 348 GT Competizione. Lamborghinis were also popular, with Diablo, Gallardo and Aventador all present.

Other Italian delights included motoring pundit and car collector Harry Metcalfe's well-travelled 1987 Ferrari Testarossa (which he once drove to the Sahara Desert), plus his 1971 Espada Series 2 (with Marzal-style full glass roof panel) and 1987 Lamborghini Countach QV. The revival of the Bizzarrini 5300 GT as a British-funded 'continuation' model was an unexpected added surprise, too. Dates for next year's London Concours event have now been confirmed as 7-9 June 2022.







Lamborghini Countach By Thillainathan Pathmanathan & Anne Christina Reck **Evro Publishing** £6o

This is a timely new book considering it's the 50th anniversary of the Lamborghini Countach, which was launched at the Geneva Motor Show in 1971. It hardly seems possible that such a star of the supercar firmament should be celebrating its golden anniversary, but there you go.

As the husband-andwife co-authors - who own the Countach pictured on the cover ask in the introduction: another Countach book, pray why? A number of reasons are given: unanswered questions from previous books; addressing the thorny question of production and chassis numbers; dealing with restoration; conveying personal encounters with the people behind the car;

and telling the story with the depth that only a Countach owner can.

On the last point,

the book certainly succeeds. There's a depth and heft here that reveals a huge knowledge of, and passion for, the model. Personal experience gained over several decades comes through strongly. The only downside of this approach is the semiautobiographical tone to much of the book. For instance, many of the illustrations - not all of them of brilliant quality too often look like a family scrapbook. And I really can't figure out why there is a page devoted

Nonetheless, the standard of writing is very high and the level of technical understanding is very appreciable. The Countach's engineering side is explored in depth, including why the Bizzarrini-designed V12 engine was mounted 'south-north'. As for the questions raised (in scientific detail) about aerodynamics, these don't entirely get answered because there are no firm answers; a similar comment applies to chassis numbers.

to the Mazda MX-5.

There are plenty of insights from key figures like Paolo Stanzani, Giampaolo Dallara, Bob Wallace and Massimo Parenti, while test driver

Valentino Balboni provides a foreword. There's a revealing chapter by Tonino Lamborghini, son of founder Ferruccio, who dispels some common myths about the car and the company.

The meat of the book the development of the original LP500 prototype into the final LP400, and its evolution through LP400S, LP500S, 5000 OV and 25th Anniversary models - is well told with excellent imagery (mostly contemporary) of each car.

Overall this expansive 336-page tome is very much not a pot-boiler, offering plenty of new insights into the spectacular Countach. It's a book that any Countach enthusiast shouldn't miss out on.



interest mostly revolves around his Le Mans 24 Hour races (driving a Bizzarrini in 1966, Ferrari 250 LM in 1969, Ferrari 512 M in 1971 and Daytona in 1972), plus outings at the Daytona 24 Hours (Ferrari 312 P) and Watkins Glen (Ferrari 712 M).

This first-hand account of one of the most alluring and romantic eras in motor racing is a lot of

> read. There are dozens of pictures here that have never been seen and the stories told by Posey (along

with his son as co-author) are thoughtful and entertaining. The design is superb, too.

fun to

Marcello Gandini Maestro of Design

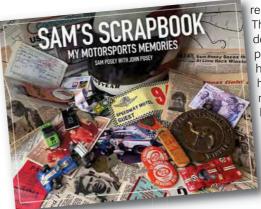
By Guatam Sen **Dalton Watson Fine Books** £225

This is a book that passed Auto Italia by when it was published five years ago but we've finally purchased our copy just before it disappears off the shelves. Officially it's sold out but it can still be found new just. Our advice

would be to hurry up and get one now if you want

And you will. The subject matter is divine: one of the greatest car designers ever, Marcello Gandini. You only have to glance at his CV to appreciate this: Lamborghini Miura, Marzal, Espada, Jarama, Urraco, Countach, Bravo, Silhouette and Diablo; Lancia Stratos Zero, Stratos HF and Sibilo; Alfa Romeo Montreal, Carabo, Alfetta and Navajo; Cizeta V16T; Ferrari 308 GT4 and Rainbow; Fiat X1/9 and Abarth 131 Rally; Maserati Khamsin, Quattroporte II and IV, Shamal, Ghibli II and Chubasco; and dozens of other non-Italian designs.

The heart of the book is the imagery - over 900 pictures of cars and sketches, many never seen before - which is all superbly reproduced. The text is well researched and packed with facts and information that you probably never knew.



Sam's Scrapbook: My **Motorsports Memories** By Sam Posey **Evro Publishing** £30

American racing driver Sam Posey is not a well known name among Italian car enthusiasts but, as this genial scrapbook by the racing driver demonstrates, it should be. Posey raced a huge variety of machinery in his time - sports cars, saloons and open-wheel racers - competing in such series as Can-Am, IMSA, Indy, Formula 5000 and Formula 1. His racing spanned 17 seasons from 1965 to 1981. Italian



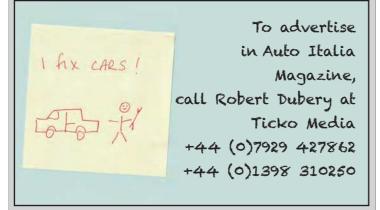






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Fiat Forum

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Fiat X1/9 Owners' Club

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Fiat 131 Mirafiori Forum

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The Other Dino (Fiat)

Brian1Boxall@btinternet.com

Lamborghini Club UK

membership@lamborghiniclub.co.uk www.lamborghiniclub.co.uk

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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

DIARY DATES 2021/2022



II September 10-12 Vernasca Silver Flag

Salsomaggiore Terme (Parma)

www.vernascasilverflag.it

II September 10-12

Vallelunga Classic

Autodromo Piero Taruffi, Italy www.peterauto.fr

September 12

Italian Wheels & Wings

Cosford, Shropshire

www.italianautomotoclub.co.uk

September 12

AROC Autumn Alfa Day

Yorkshire Wildlife Park www.aroc-uk.com

II September 14-17

12in12 Rally

Spa to Bra 12in12.strikingly.com

II September 16-19

Gran Premio Nuvolari

Mantova, Italy

gpnuvolari.it

September 18-19

Petrolheadonsim Live

at Knebworth Knebworth, Hertfordshire

petrolheadonism.club

September 24-26 Lancia Motor Club FFFEAR2021

www.lancia.myzen.co.uk

October 1-3

Milano AutoClassica

Fiera Milano Rho, Italy www.milanoautoclassica.com **Autumn Classic Historic Racing Festival**

October 2

Castle Combe, Wilts

castlecombecircuit.co.uk

October 10 ***NEW DATE***

Auto Italia ITALIAN CAR DAY Brooklands, Surrey

www.auto-italia.co.uk

October 15-16

Rally Revival Glyndwr University, Wrexham

www.rallyrevival.co.uk

October 16-17

Goodwood 78th Members' Meeting

Goodwood Circuit,

West Sussex

www.goodwood.com 11 October 21-24

Auto e Moto d'Epoca

Padova, Italy

autoemotodepoca.com

November 11-13

Classic Motor Show

NEC, Birmingham www.necclassicmotorshow.com

February 18-20

Race Retro

Stoneleigh, Warks

www.raceretro.com

May 28-June 2 Lancia Motor Club Sliding

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- ALFASUD AT 50 YEARS
- ALFA 4C BUYERS' GUIDE
- LAMBORGHINI AVENTADOR SV-J FAREWELL





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ALFA ROMEO



1975 Alfa Romeo Spider Veloce 2000 Convertible. 89,000 miles, red/black hood, stunning classic owned by me for over six years, only selling as now downsizing collection. Excellent condition, runs fine, had over £8000 work done - contact me for details as no room to list here, have all paperwork and relevant invoices etc, V5 included, genuine RHD. Regularly serviced and has current MOT, expires 7/5/22, history goes back to original owner from 1975. £23,895, fair price for a classic in this condition. Tel: Richard D'Cruze, 07521 728363. A308/071



1989 Alfa Romeo Spider QV. 63,000 miles, silver, increasingly sought after series 3 QV Spider in excellent all round condition and great value at around half the price of a similar series 2. Full and extensive service history file, all recent work done by Alfa specialist and no advisories on latest MOT. I am a long standing enthusiast and AROC member and this car is only for sale as I am rationalising my small collection, £11,750. Email: martinaveyard1@ gmail.com for further details. A308/070



1972 Alfa Romeo Giulia GT Junior
1300. Right hand drive, 48,969 miles, red, bought from new and owned by same family. Severely deteriorated since being SORN in 1986, engine not run since 1986, now no battery. Major restoration or break for parts, handbook, tool set, jack and workshop manual. Complete set of glass, seats and dashboard, tyres damaged but will allow car to be rolled onto trailer. Sensible offers considered, buyer to collect. Email: redman.richard@talk21.com (West Sussex). A308/064

Alfa Giulia Spider. RHD, 1964, for sale. Tel: 01275 568192 (Bristol). A308/078



1988 Alfa Romeo 75 3.0L V6. 128,000 miles, Rosso, great example, full service history, all MOTs, maintained by Alfa specialist, four owners. Harvey-Bailey handling kit (modified front anti-roll bar, rear springs, dampers, lowered suspension), gearbox rebuilt, underbody checked regularly and resealed, rear brakes, clutch replaced, new alternator, battery. As new 16-inch Speedline wheels, excellent Recaro interior. Low mileage in recent years, although always serviced and MOT'd annually, £8000 ono. Email: paul.hudson75@hotmail.co.uk for more details (south Scotland). A308/069



2003 Alfa Romeo 147 GTA 3.2 V6. 75,000 miles, red. Original 2003 manual Alfa 147 GTA in excellent condition, this car has been lovingly maintained by the present owner for 10 years. The car has the Alfa media system and has the Q2 differential upgrade, service history available to view with car. This car is in excellent condition and should go to another Alfa enthusiast, GTAs this good are getting harder to find, £11,500. Tel: Dave, 07736 130006 or Adi, 07881



2009 Alfa Romeo 159 1.9 Sportwagon Ti Cloverleaf. 113,000 miles, red. With regret I am selling my Sportwagon Ti due to being unable to drive due to medical reasons. Owned this car since Sept 2020, MOT until May 2022, it has recently had a 70,000 mile engine fitted at Bianco Auto Developments (contact Paul/Harry to confirm this, 01342 842020), original swallowing a swirl flap causing internal engine and turbo damage, remap with a certificate of proof, £4700 ono, please contact me for complete history and info on car. Tel: 07715 609315. Émail: dave.c.champion@ gmail.com. A308/074



2011 Alfa Romeo 159 1.7 TBi TI.
63,000 miles, Nero Black, rare car, only
c200 in UK, and 11 registered in 2011.
Car kept in excellent condition, extras
include Bose speakers, Xenon
headlights, heated part leather front
seats. As standard for TBi: 19" spoke
design alloys, red Brembo brake calipers,
lowered sports suspension, leather
steering wheel and stainless steel Ti
pedals. Low mileage, turbo, 200bhp, full
service history and 12 months' MOT, 2
remote keys, £8995 ono. Tel: Tony,
07747 642550. A308/075



1995 Alfa Romeo 164 V6 Cloverleaf.
104,860 miles, Alfa Red. Wanted - good home for cherished Alpha 164, excellent condition, full service history, MOT till July 2022. Black leather interior, electric sunroof, windows and wing mirrors. Radio and 6 CD changer + full two volume Alpha 164 workshop manuals + set of carpets (unopened). Winner of the 2002 Prix Concours, £7000. Tel: Brian, 01795 531768. A308/066



1991 Alfa Romeo 164 2 litre Twin Spark. 171,000 miles, black, current owner for last 17 years, only three owners in total. It has done 171,000 miles but the engine was rebuilt by David Lao at Sunnyside Garage at 104,000 miles and it still runs beautifully. Fantastic overall condition with a grey velour interior that is in incredible condition, only selling due to the extension of the congestion zone in London, £2950. Tel: Fred Baker, 07854 301683. A308/073



Alfa Romeo 939 Spider 2.2JTS.

101,000 miles, silver, 12 months' MOT. Very good condition with recent full service including brake fluid, spark plugs change etc, thousands spent in the last year or so. Roof checked by Auto Italia all good, subframe and suspension arms replaced, remapped by Celtic Tuning, car now produces 205bhp. Rear exhaust section is a stainless steel Wizard exhaust, 18-inch horseshoe alloys, nice car but need to sell (need 4 seats), any questions please get in touch, £6150, priced to sell. Tel: 07951 509620. Email: eddiemarczak@yahoo.co.uk. A308/077



2000 Alfa Romeo 916 GTV 3.0 V6. 100,000 miles, red, has been fitted with 2003 facelift bonnet. Extensive service history, Alfa Shop Norwich did cambelt service 18/2/2020, many parts replaced under my ownership. Reason for sale in my decrepitude, find it difficult to get in and out of the car. MOT November, featured in AROC mag April 2021, £5450. Tel: Mark, 01579 347290. Email: mtsimmonsy@outlook.com. A308/062



2003 Alfa Romeo GTV 2.0 JTS. 126,678 miles, Rosso Alfa 130, tan leather interior. MOT to November 2021, purchased in 2010, one previous owner, AROC member. Full service history, 3400 miles since cambelt change, paintwork needs attention due to lacquer lifting. Enjoyed many years of good motoring but selling so that I can concentrate on

miles since cambelt change, paintwork needs attention due to lacquer lifting. Enjoyed many years of good motoring but selling so that I can concentrate on my classic Alfa, £2250. For further details please phone: 01789 470071. Email: millsgit@btinternet.com (south Warwickshire). A308/063



2004 Alfa Romeo 916 Spider 2.0 JTS

Lusso. 36,308 miles, Series 3 'RG53EOT'. Rosso, black leather, manual 5 gears, all keys, MOT October, always insured, garaged. Annual services and MOTs, cambelt, water pump and two coils done 2020. Joyful drive, reminiscent of an Alfasud but has 163 bhp! 16" teledial wheels, includes: Spider 17" FE wheels, luggage rack, car cover. Ownership 2008, no accidents, AROC 1985, £9750 ono. Txt: Rob, 07742 598214 (Leeds). A308/067



2007 Alfa Romeo 939 Spider 3.2 V6 JTS Q4. 43,900 miles, silver, excellent example of the Alfa Romeo Spider 3.2 V6 JTS Q4, with 14 service stamps and only 43,900 miles. Reluctant to sell, but a change in personal circumstances means I'm no longer able to make full use of it. Some minor wear, as to be expected with an '07 vehicle, but this car has been well looked after and is in v. good condition. MOT'd 11/01/2021, with no advisories and serviced 18/06/2021,



£12,495. Tel: 07896 097072. A308/076

2008 Alfa Romeo Brera SV JTDM 2.4.

103,065 miles, red, 12 months' MOT. Good condition with major overhaul last year including new exhaust, road springs, brake pads and discs, engine remap stage 1, new lower wishbone and ARB link. Nice dependable car that drives well and is economical 40mpg, kept in garage, space required forces reluctant sale, £3450. Tel: 07802 420300. Email: malcolmwgs@gmail.com. A308/072



2014 Alfa Romeo MiTo Quadrifoglio

Verde. 58,000 miles, Alfa Rosso TCT 1.4 170bhp, 64 plate, one AROC owner, FARSH, MOT Oct '21. All QV standard features plus electric sunroof, unmodified. Low price as Cat S due to rear end shunt needing new tailgate 3 years ago, no chassis damage. Completely and professionally repaired, £3950, just replaced by new Fiat 500e electric. Tel: 07801 716443 (Gloucestershire). A308/065

2012 Alfa Romeo 159 Tl 2.0 JTDm.

106,500 miles, red, excellent condition all round. 106K with FSH, 1 owner, 6 speed manual, a/c, Pioneer sat nav, Bose, heated Alcantara/leather seats with red stitching, 19" alloys, red Brembo calipers, e/folding mirrors, solid subframe, MOT 03/22, last serviced 03/21, £4500. Tel: Andrew, 07976 328855. A308/079

Next issue on sale 7 Oct



Alfa Romeo Limited Edition Spyder.

This open-top only edition came about as an anniversary to mark the 50 years since the first 'Spyder' was released by Alfa Romeo in 1966. The Limited Edition being launched in January 2016 only sold in the UK. This exceptional low mileage example of a true modern classic presents in Competizione Red sporting the unique flag on the mirrors, this was for the 50th edition only. Comes with Metatrack tracking system, car cover, trickle charger, 18-in front, 19-in rear alloy multi-spoke wheels with dark finish, bi-Xenon headlights, remote central locking, passenger airbags, cruise control. The interior has carbon fibre instrument panel, sports leather seats with detailed contrasting stitching and a matching leather dashboard. The car is well known for having a carbon fibre monocot tub usually used for supercar production. This car is in excellent condition having been cherished by its present owner for the last 2 years having purchased from Palmers Hemel Hempstead in 2019. Recently serviced by Alfa Works in Royston for last two years, this car comes with a clean bill of health, 10,790 miles, £52,495. If interested, contact for full and detailed spec. Email: darren@darrenbywater.co.uk. A308/002



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ABARTH



2007 Alfa Romeo Brera 3.2 JTS V6 Q4 SV. 19,000 miles, Alfa Red, owned for 9 years, 17-in alloys, ABS, cruise control, air con, heated electric memory seats, remote central locking, PAS, rear park distance control, electric windows, immobiliser, 6 speed manual, on board computer, sky vision sunroof, steering wheel controls, stereo with CD player, 4WD, black leather interior, MOT. One of the best ones around for the year, £10,500. Tel: Nick, 07984 725072 (Beds). A308/061

FERRARI



Ferrari 360 Spider. 2003, full history, 35K miles, superb condition, met black, red Daytona leather, high spec exhaust etc, superb, £70K. Tel: 07710 393864 (Surrey). A308/001

Ferrari F430 manual. F430 Spider, 2006, rare manual right hand drive Scuderia, red, black interior, new hood, Challenge grilles, full service history, 2 owners, immaculate, 58,000 miles, £99,950. Tel: 01279 757323 or 07836 205103. A308/008

Ferrari 328 GTB. December 1988 model, Mercedes 280 SL Pagoda forces sale. Low mileage (40,300 miles), full year's MOT, huge history file, desirable colour combination, tasteful factory options. Full air conditioning, full leather pack, ABS braking, fully serviced with impressive history, Nero Black and cream leather low-mileage example, 3 place Ferrari Owners' Club concours in 2000, and since then it's been maintained fastidiously at specialists, £59,890 bargain. Tel: 07466 021553. A308/006



Ferrari F355 GTS F1. UK RHD, 1999, finished in the classic Rosso Corsa with Crema leather and Bordeaux carpets. Beautiful condition with low mileage 25,153 and has a comprehensive service history having been most recently serviced at Stratstone Ferrari Wilmslow in November 2020. Built in charging connection for its trickle charger, all books/tools. I have owned the car since May 2018 and he's been looked after beautifully with no expense spared. plate not included. Email: bm.gilbert@sky.com. A308/010



Ferrari Dino 246GT. 42K miles, first owner actor Richard Thorpe (Dam Buster, Emergency Ward 10, Emmerdale etc). Also powerboat racer Jackie Wilson – works driver for Mercury. Fully detailed history, all MOTs from first in 1975. Original Giallo Fly yellow, Maranello Archives certified matching numbers, road tested in *Auto Italia* magazine. Handbook, jack, tools, wheel chock and original warranty card, £299,950. Contact Chris for further details on: 07952 119939. A308/005



Ferrari 360 Modena F1. 39,594 documented miles, 2000. Full comprehensive service history (all bills and receipts are present). Rosso Corsa/Nero leather and Bordeaux carpets. Original wallet, manuals, service books, tool kit and tyre inflator, 2 keys and 2x fobs (1x black, 1x red), HPI clear, MOT until October 2021, £57,995 ono. Tel: 07779 726845. Email: prsche@msn.com. A308/007



Ferrari 328GTB race car. Front running 1985 328GTB race car. Converted by renowned Ferrari Specialists Graham and Mike Reeder, and has successfully competed in group 3 (unmodified/road legal) of the Pirelli Ferrari formula classic. The car was subject to a major overhaul for the 2020 season at Barkaways Ferrari with several upgrades including work to the engine, gearbox, brakes and suspension, and has not raced since. I have achieved many podiums but unfortunately due to my health I am no longer able to race this beautiful car. Tel: Carl, 07799 872546. A308/015



Ferrari 308 GTSi. 1981 Ferrari 308 GTSi, 49,938 miles from new with extensive service history. The car is in pristine condition with full European spec bodywork and lights including a deep dish front spoiler which set these cars apart from the standard front spoiler. New stainless steel exhaust, full cream leather interior with red carpet set including door and door pocket trim. Offers in the region of £65,000. Tel: 07711 764768. A308/004



Ferrari 360 Michelloto. Factory built 360 Challenge on the 22/12/2000, assembly no 39879, one of only 2 cars built to Carbon Michelloto specification. This particular car has had over £80,000 spent over the last few years, including a new Stradale engine (invoices on file), and lightly used since. Full Air Jack system, Ohlins fully adjustable dampers, Autotel comms, slicks and wets. This car is very well known in the UK, and has been maintained to the highest of standards, happy to p/x road car. Tel: Robert, 07802 638618. A308/013



Ferrari 328 GTB. Rosso Corsa, tan leather, beige carpets, 77,600 miles, just been serviced including belts and MOT'd, original toolkit and spare wheel, 2 keys, extensive history file, £75,000. Email: haynes355@btinternet.com. A308/009 1991 Ferrari Testarossa. UK supplied car 2FTR, 18,000 genuine miles with full Ferrari/specialist service history, lovely history file, cam belts and main service just completed. Full original Schedoni Testarossa language set, with leather bound owner's pack, set of Azev (fitted from almost new) and original set of wheels, multiple owners but in my ownership since 2011. I have loved and hated this amazing machine but it's time for me to move!! Will only sell to someone who will appreciate it!! £185,000. Email: ewtg@icloud.com. A308/012

Ferrari 360 Spider. 2002 360 Spider in Rosso/Crema, 28,300 miles, high spec and full service history. My car since 2015 and it has just had cam belt service (3rd in my ownership) at Bob Houghtons, full details on Bob Houghton website. Car is immaculate and ready to go, the car is on SORN at Bob Houghtons so give Russell (sales manager) a call on 01451 860794 to see or test the car. I'm happy to take calls on: 07803 964349. A308/014



Affordable Pirelli Ferrari Classic Racing. 1994 Ferrari Mondial T, mileage 33,000, ready to race. Over the winter the car has undergone extensive preparation, new cambelts and tensioners, new water pump and clutch. Car is road registerered and MOT'd. Turns heads on the weekly shopping trip to Waitrose! 3 sets of wheels including road tyres and a set of new race tyres. Owner happy to assist with ARDS qualification. Separate neg I will run the car at events for 2021 season, £40,000. Email: simon.rossinelli@sky.com. A308/011

FIAT



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Challenge Edition. This is 1 of only 13
official Abarth factory road legal track
cars, fully kitted out with original Abarth
Sabelt seats, rollcage, fire extinguisher
etc. This is in brand new condition with
absolutely no imperfections. A true
collector's car with full provenance and
a sure fire investment, please email for
photos, spec and price. Email:
julianbrannigan@icloud.com. A308/003

PARTS

Ferrari 348 Targa roof panel. I have a Targa roof panel for a 348 available, complete with latches, the headlining is in grey cloth. A couple of small chips on it and one screw needs replacing on the latches, very hard to find item and great if you want to colour code it to match the car, £1500 or near offer. Tel: Andrew, 07375 288003. A308/021

Ferrari 812 no drill licence plate holder. The best plate holder for your 812, bought from Ferrari of Vancouver, made for UK licence plate. Used for 200 miles so like new, excellent fit, keeps the front grille clear. Very easy to mount/remove, cost £250, looking for £125. Tel: Paul, 07871 278802. Email: paul.mitchell10@outlook.com. A308/023 Fiat Strada 130TC spares. Mkz grille, tailgate, rear lenses, washer bottle, exhaust manifold + other parts. Tel: Martin, 07941 851991. A308/060



Ferrari 275 GTB/4 Long Nose - front grille. Front grille from a 275 GTB/4 Long Nose. Removed during 1970s and hung in owner's garage where it remained for 40 years! The slats are slightly skewed from a front corner bump, but would be easy to repair. It has some very light surface corrosion, which is to be expected, but is structurally sound. I have not cleaned it, but I'm sure would clean up well with some Scotchbrite. For questions or further photos please get in touch, inviting offers over £2000. Email:



Ferrari California RH headlight. I have a UK genuine Ferrari California RH headlight for sale. It's brand new, bought for a pre-facelift California, it's no longer wanted. Brand new as in it's not even been unwrapped and taken out of the box. It was an HR OWEN part, 000240126. £3200 but open to offers. Tel: Lee, 01689 664769. A308/051



















Ferrari Challenge Stradale muffler. Ferrari MLF F131 E, part no.195811, ZEUNA STARKER 205 8605 001, condition is "used". Changed under warranty for new due to a slight noise/rattle in the exhaust. Possible installation on 360 or 430, but please check with Ferrari before purchase, £650. Email: ghell@btinternet.com. A308/019



Ferrari Daytona Spyder roof clip covers. Genuine Ferrari 365 GTS/4, Daytona Spyder roof catch covers. Very rare as most were thrown away, they came in a cardboard box in the boot of new cars, I have a photo showing this. A must for concours, if you have a judge that knows his Daytonas. Found in the UK so may be for one the 7 RHD cars, they are the same on LHD cars. Very good condition, these are 45 plus years old and you won't find another pair, £850. Tel. Grant, 07941 114919.



Ferrari 348 rear bumper. Excellent condition, £1750, further details please contact Allen Worthington. Tel: 07771 652477. Email: allen.worthington@ntlworld.com. A308/042



Magneti Marelli ECU. Magneti Marelli ECU AEC 103A Dinoplex module. This is a used unit, and it will require remapping, offers. Email: danny@bluecatcafe.co.uk. A308/039



Ferrari tow hook. Emergency tow hook from tool kit, 8.5 inches long, £110, OEM. Email: mark.charles@ntlworld.com.
A308/040



Ferrari F40 towing eye. Brand new F40 towing eye for sale from Classic Ferrari Parts, never used. Acquired as a spare for £200 last year and now surplus to requirements, sensible offers welcomed. Email: nicholashart@me.com. A308/018



Ferrari F355 brake calipers. I have a pair of F355 calipers that have been in storage for close to 25 years. I bought them back in the 'gos as a potential upgrade for my 308GTB, but never used them and now never willl. As a result they are still in excellent low mileage condition and ready to go again. I believe that adapters are available to enable fitment on to 308s/328s and this would be a great upgrade to those models for track or race use. Email: allo.ferg@yahoo.ca. A308/034

15" Borrani wheels. 2 off RW 4075 and 2 off RW4300 Borrani wheels. Original wheels refurbished by Borrani, still in Borrani boxes. New price £2700 inc VAT each, sensible offers for the four. Tel: Neil Lefley, 01604 754997. Email: bnlefley@outlook.com. A308/038

Ferrari 360 Spider ECU. I have for sale

Ferrari 360 Spider ECU. I have for sale one ignition ECU. This has come off my own car, open to offers, ring with any questions. Tel: 07896 556107. A308/047 Portofino valved exhaust and

'stainless steel X' pipe. 2020 Capristo valved exhaust and a Kline Innovation stainless steel 'X' pipe. Will fit a Ferrari Portofino, used for 9 months (1500 miles) during 2020, car now sold with original exhaust refitted. Any sensible offer considered. Tel: Guy, 07768 511614. A308/055

Ferrari 208 F106C engine. Very rare F106C 2 litre V8 engine and cylinder heads for sale complete with camshafts, cam covers, crankshaft. Date codes from 1975, less than 1000 of these were made I believe. There is no gearbox or diff with it, I have no idea of the condition of the internals. Very rare engine, spares or repair, does NOT run!! Asking £6000. Tel: Andrew, 07375 288003 (Staffordshire). A308/052



Ferrari 458 exhaust (Capristo).

Capristo valve-controlled exhaust system for the Ferrari 458, fits to the original mountings. Grade 1.4828 stainless steel, optional Capristo remote control exhaust valve opener is available if required. Very good condition, very clean, removed by Ferrari main dealer prior to sale of car, asking: £1600, no VAT. Tel: 01223 g01990. A308/045



18" split rims and tyres. Were fitted to my Ferrari 355 but have now returned to the originals, will of course fit other Ferrari models. Fronts are 8.5" x 18". Rears are 9.5" x 18". The wheels are in very good condition, no kerbing and come with wheel bolts. The tyres are Pirelli P Zero Trofeo Rs: 225/40 ZR18 fronts & 265/40 ZR18 rears and are pretty much brand new. Wheels £800, tyres £800, wheels and tyres £1500, buyer collects, (can send photos of tyres upon request). Tel: 07977 396357. A308/037



Challenge Stradale front wheels. 2x Ferrari Challenge Stradale, 360/430 front alloy wheel 19x7.5 part no. 195392. These wheels were changed under warranty due to small marks on the alloy, stored since in dehumidified garage. Recently wheels checked and refurbed so are now in excellent like new condition. Price new approx £2500 each, so grab yourself a bargain, would consider selling single wheels but would want £950 each. Email: gshell@btinternet.com. A308/025



Fiat 500 headlights. Early models, c/w bulbs, genuine original parts, excellent second hand condition, £35 each. Tel: 07989 951895 (Canterbury). A308/080 Ferrari 458 Spider OEM floor mats. 458 Spider, OEM new driver's and passenger's black floor mats, still in Ferrari taped bubble wrap, £130 ono excluding postage. Email: Gillian, geb_40@yahoo.co.uk. A308/053 Ferrari 360/550/575 complete toolkit. I have for sale a complete toolkit for F360/550/575, in good condition, as new. Contact Eddie, email: edregad@yahoo.com. A308/026



Ferrari genuine F430 CF mats. Used but in good condition, £170. Tel: 07790 312520. A308/024



Novitec F4 458 HF3 wheels and tyres. Set of Novitec F4 458 NF3 split rim alloys to suit Ferrari 458, complete with part worn Continental Sport Contact 6 tyres. Front wheels 21", rear wheels 22". Fronts: 255/30 ZR21 XL. Rears: 335/25 ZR22 XL. On the car when purchased but I have changed to Ferrari alloys and have these available from Buckinghamshire, 2 minor stone chips and a small scuff pictured, easily repainted, very good condition, £4200 ovno. Tel: Phil, 07584 437773. Email: phil@plumbplussupplies.co.uk. A308/022

MISCELLANEOUS

Ferrari 599 original car cover set. 599 original official car cover, plus 2 seat covers, steering wheel cover, and holdall, made in Italy. Please email me and I'll gladly submit various photos by return. Email: dnacorp@aol.com.
A308/029



Ferrari models 1/18. Model collection from 166MM to Enzo, 1/18 scale, most with boxes. Available singly or several, message for details, price, etc. Email: mark.charles@ntlworld.com. A308/048



Kyosho Ferrari F1 model collection

1.64. Very rare discontinued collection, 17 models are unopened, 4 have been made. The eagle eyed amongst you will realise that the total number of models here is 21!! The reason for this is that I already had one of the models but I can't remember which one so there will be a double of one of them. None of the unopened model boxes have a description of which model is inside, £250 plus postage. For more info and photos get in touch. Tel: 07977 396357. Email: nick@njwassociates.co.uk. A308/036



50 years of Maranello by Albero Bolaffi. Number 220 of a limited edition of 12 philatelic covers depicting GP/F1 Ferraris in a nicely presented ring binder with text in Italian and English, £100. Email: mark.charles@ntlworld.com. A308/056



F430 2 piece Schedoni unused leather/carbon fibre luggage set. New never used, 2 pieces in Nero leather/carbon fibre, 2 cases with dust covers, zips still have their protective covers. Can ship overseas too, £2950 ono. Email: ataunque@gmail.com. A308/032

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Panerai chronograph. Panerai Ferrari gent's chronograph. Mint condition, with inner and outer boxes, manuals and original invoice, £3250. Email: mark.charles@ntlworld.com. A308/050



Ferrari 612 owners manual. £95. Tel: Paul, 07734 111654. Email: paulhf12@gmail.com. A308/030 Specialised Ferrari 575 car cover. Black with yellow piping (discreet prancing horse emblem in yellow). Please email me or send WhatsApp for photos. Email: dnacorp@aol.com. A308/027

Ferrari 355 Spyder brochure. 36 full colour pages, presented in a white Ferrari folder, excellent condition, £50. Email: r19831993@aol.com. A308/043



Original 308/328 4 piece leather luggage set. Originally purchased for a 308 and never used. Email: simon1.fowler@btinternet.com. A308/041



'Ferrari' by Clarkson. Number 368 of limited edition of 1500. Mint condition, in slipcase, very rare, £100. Email: mark.charles@ntlworld.com. A308/035 **Ferrari workshop manuals.** Workshop manuals for 348, 355 Vol.1, 355 Vol.2+3, 246, 308GT4. In ring binders, £150 each. Email: mark.charles@ntlworld.com. A308/058

Ferrari spare parts catalogues. Spare parts catalogues for Testarossa 1990, BB512, Mondial T, 360 Modena, 308GT4, 355 Motonic 5.2, 550 Maranello, 456. In ring binders (mostly blue, but 456 in yellow), £150 each. Email: mark.charles@ntlworld.com. A308/059

Ferrari 348 electrical manual. Electrical manual for 348 in ring binder, £100. Email: mark.charles@ntlworld.com. A308/057



Framed Alan Fearnley Ferrari print signed by Michael Schumacher.

Collectable print by Alan Fearnley. It features 7 times World Champion Michael Schumacher leaving the pit garage in his 2001 Formula 1 Ferrari. Exquisitely presented glazed and double mounted, frame coloured in Antique Gold. It was published by Grand Prix Sportique in 2001 and is in excellent condition having held pride of place in a non-smoking household for a number of years. Signed by Schumacher and the artist. Email: flyian@msn.com. A308/028

WANTED

Car wanted: Espada S3. Prefer LHD, swap4 Merc 230TE auto estate, 71,000 mls, 1988, many extras and new parts: alloys, cruise control, batt, rad, brakes etc; also Pentax/Nikon collection and pro items, ideal wildlife/sports etc, cammo clothing etc, or SnapOn tools. Tel: 01277 200530. A308/016 Wanted anything Lambo: cars, tractors, boats, bikes, BMW-M1 etc, any

tractors, boats, bikes, BMW-M1 etc, any language, also any car mags. Swap4 books, mags, brochures, posters etc, USA trucks/cars, Lincoln, Caddie, Corvette, Mustang, GT40, Jag, Lotus etc, wildlife, wild west etc. Tel: 01277 200530. A308/017

OBSCURATI

CURIOSITIES FROM THE AMAZING WORLD OF ITALIAN CARS

Boneschi Alfa Romeo 2600 Cabriolet

Story by Chris Rees



hat is it that makes an Alfa Romeo so instantly recognisable? It is, of course, the unmistakable 'trilobo' triangular front grille, which has adorned pretty much every car that ever came out of Milan (or Turin, for that matter). But not absolutely every one...

And having looked at the car on this page, you might well wonder why it was left off. The trilobo grille adds so much character; the non-descript nose of the subject of this month's Obscurati piece could have come from something bland and American – it certainly doesn't scream 'Alfa Romeo'.

This car came from one of Italy's lesser-known coachbuilders, Boneschi, which had been set up in 1919 by Giovanni Boneschi. From a base in Padova, the *carrozzeria* made special limousine bodies in its early years and then rebodied Fiat 1100s, Lancia Aprilias and Alfa Romeo 1900s in post-war years, plus novelty advertising vehicles.

Then in 1960, Boneschi teamed up with a designer called Rodolfo Bonetto. This ex-jazz drummer and self-taught stylist had some very firm design ideas. He was drawn by straight lines, typified in car design by the 1961 Lincoln Continental. In his own design language, he called this *linea tesa* (which can be translated as 'razor edge').

He was convinced that the swoopy car designs being presented at the time as "aerodynamic" were nothing of the sort and that his sharpedged approach was every bit as valid. Boneschi was persuaded to build a whole series of cars to Bonetto's linea tesa process from 1960 onwards. These would include special bodies based on the Fiat 1500 S, Fiat 2100, Lancia Flaminia (badged Amalfi), Osca 1600 GT (Swift) and even Maserati 3500 (Tight).

We're looking at the ninth (and final) of these razor-edge designs, which is why it had the name 'Studionove' (or ninth study) emblazoned on its flanks. Incidentally, Boneschi never made public Bonetto's seventh and eighth designs – perhaps they were simply too controversial to be shown.

The Studionove was based on the then-new Alfa Romeo 2600, as launched in March 1962. Although Alfa offered its own 2600 Spider (designed by Carrozzeria Touring), Boneschi still thought it worthwhile to propose its own. It took delivery of chassis number 192742 on 6 September 1963 and had finished it by 26 October 1963 – a remarkable achievement considering it took a reported

3570 hours' worth of work. The car received its public debut at the Turin Show of October 1963.

The design was certainly different. Its straight lines were – almost literally – cutting edge but in general it ended up looking boxy and heavy. It suffered from over-chroming and its rigidly squared-off rear wheelarches looked very odd considering its front arches were semi-circular.

Perhaps the Studionove's poor reception was one reason why the 'folder paper' school of design, promulgated by Giugiaro in the 1970s, took so long to get off the ground. If only the car's proportions and detailing were better resolved, we might be looking back on this as the progenitor of a new styling trend.

As it was, Bonetto went back to industrial design, making a name for himself with avant garde furniture. For its part, Boneschi decided to focus its efforts on military vehicles, mobile TV studios and vans before being swallowed by rival Savio in 1995. Luckily the Studionove still exists today – not that you'd imagine an Alfa 2600 chassis lurks underneath.



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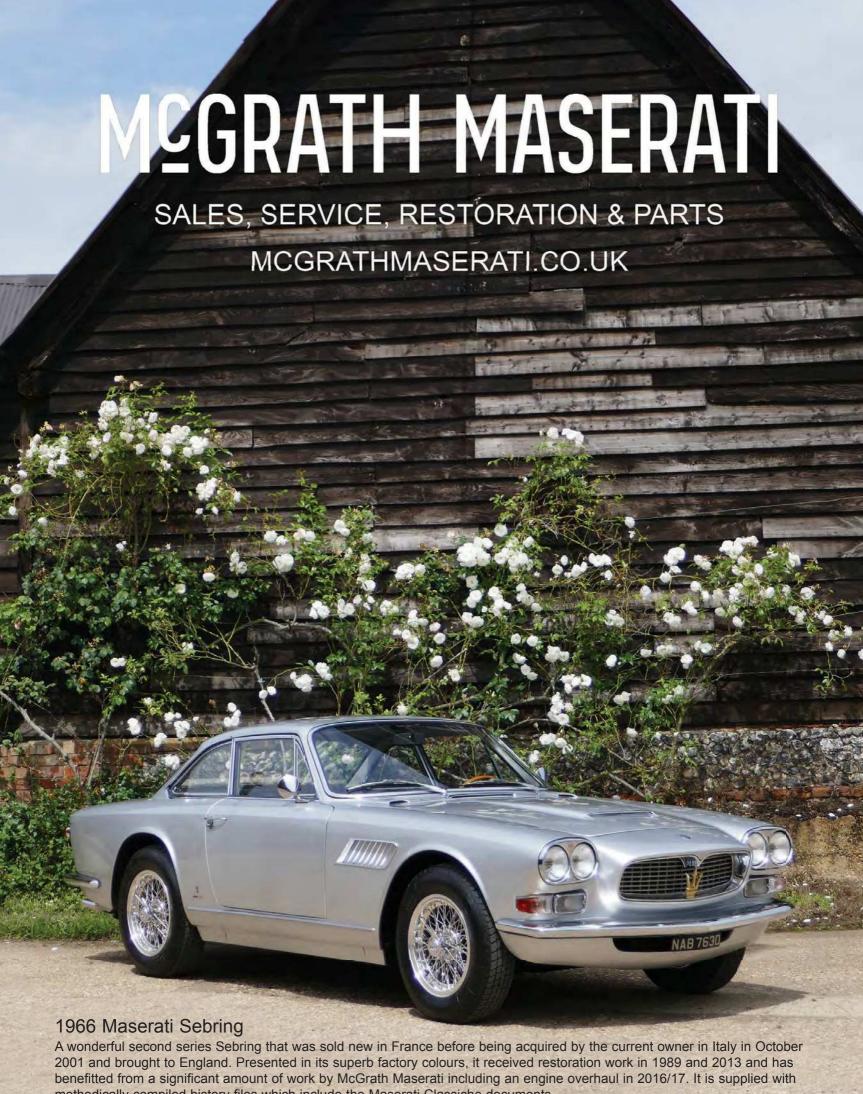








To enquire contact: Patrick 07738 291388 patrick@patrickhurst.com



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