

EST 1973

FERRARI 375 Epic rescue from New Jersey chicken shed



classiccars

Why Triumph TR4 is 2011's hottest buy

50th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL FEATURE see p54

- TR4 OR TR4A?
- ORIGINAL OR MODIFIED?
- WHAT TO PAY

TR4 RALLY ARCHIVE PICTURE SPECIAL



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Brian Culcheth's '70s rally battles

JAG Mk10 AT 50 Sir William Lyons' limo driven

ROOFLESS AND COOL Mercedes 190 SL vs Porsche 356 vs Lancia Aurelia B50

How the 908 racer took Porsche to the big league

MGB GT V8 JOURNEY Rumbling along the factory test route



HAVE AN AC ACE FOR £25K Be different but buy carefully



THE WORKS COSTIN AMIGO Gerry Marshall raced it, we drive it



AUGUST 2011 £4.30



RENAULT 4 DRIVEN • FIAT TWIN-CAM SECRETS • FIVE CARS FOR SALE TESTED

EVENTS NEWS



Berlin's disused Tempelhof airport will host a new concours event in 2012

Berlin to get its first concours event...

A NEW CONCOURS d'élégance event has been announced for Germany next May, with the Berlin International Concours taking place at the disused but well-preserved Tempelhof airport.

The German and Dutch team behind the event is led by Bart Rietbergen, who has run the well-regarded concours at Het Loo in the Netherlands over the past decade. Like the Het Loo event, there will be both an international concours attracting the world's most exotic classics and a national event aimed at more production-level machinery. There's also a plan to showcase 75 cars from past and present that use alternative fuels, and run them along the airport's runway.

For more information see www.berlininternationalconcours.com

... and London gets another



Former Salon Privé venue The Hurlingham Club is to host a new concours d'élégance

DOES LONDON need another new concours event? The Hurlingham Club in Fulham, former venue for Salon Privé, thinks so. On July 27-29 it will hold its own Concours D'Elégance London, promising a similar deal to Salon Privé, showcasing luxury brands alongside classic cars and supercars. Day tickets, priced from £198, include a lobster lunch, Veuve Clicquot champagne and afternoon tea.

Featured entries are expected to include five examples each of iconic Aston Martins, McLaren Le Mans cars, Gulf-sponsored Le Mans cars, Pininfarina spiders, Pininfarina Ferraris, black classic Jaguar convertibles and black classic Jaguar coupés. These will be displayed alongside a selection of other rare classics. See www.concourslondon.com for details.



Simon Kidston

Living the Dolce Vita in automotive paradise

B AAAM! BAAAM! BAAAAA... I'm not sure if that's an exact rendition, but hopefully you get the idea: two McLaren F1s singing their hearts out, all 24 cylinders and 12 litres, as they climb the dramatic Grand St Bernard Pass en route from Switzerland to Italy for the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este.

What a drive, what a sight (other drivers jostle to get close and snap photos in traffic) and what an experience: it gets very lively, and very noisy once the McLarens hit their stride in sixth. And the journey is only the start – sensory overload continues on arrival at the landmark hotel overlooking picturesque Lake Como. A low and swoopy Alfa Romeo TZ2 sits nonchalantly in front of the hotel boutique. The chromed Borrani of a turquoise Aston Martin DB4 GT Zagato shimmer in the sunlight as the car manoeuvres into position. A glamorous Euro-chic couple pull up in an elegant grey Ferrari California Spider – the real one, not its Fiat-era namesake – and uniformed staff smoothly whisk them and their luggage inside. It feels as if we've arrived on a film set; the appearance of local resident George Clooney would hardly raise an eyebrow.

It gets better. The next day, sun high in the sky and temperature rising, a tanned and wiry Italian sporting a cowboy hat arrives at reception. I've invited him to drive one of the concours entries for a short video and he's generously agreed. After all, it's not every day you see an Alfa Romeo 33 Stradale, much less get the chance to hear it put through its paces on public roads by an ex-F1 driver and Targa Florio winner, so the opportunity to shoot it for my website was too good to pass up. Arturo Merzario (aka 'Little Art' – just as well given that the Stradale's cockpit wasn't made for Texans) climbs onboard, the V8 bellows and they amble off down the hotel driveway, reflections playing on the bodywork of what must surely be the best looking car of its era, the *basso profundo* exhaust carrying across the manicured grounds.

The big day dawns and I'm in automotive paradise as the world's top collectors wait proudly by their steeds, ready to be judged by a panel of designers with enough iconic shapes in their CVs to fill an encyclopaedia. It doesn't get any better: a teardrop Talbot-Lago vies for attention with a sinister supercharged Mercedes, its black livery contrasting with the white Delage D8 roadster that took Best of Show at Pebble Beach last year. World class? No kidding.

The post-war line-up is just as impressive. A Le Mans veteran seven-litre Ford GT40 rubs shoulders with a genuine low-drag Jaguar E-type fresh from a 7000-hour restoration, while a quirky Maserati Tipo 63 shows off its mid-mounted V12 with a display of exhaust pipes worthy of a peacock. Elsewhere Ferrari 250 GT SWB, 275 GTB/4 and diminutive 212 Export (raced by Phil Hill, no less) provide a touch of classic elegance. And in the tradition of bygone concours d'élégance, current manufacturers have their own concept car class where their latest one-offs are unveiled for the first time. Aston's new Zagato gets the public vote.

And the winner is? Best of Show is only revealed on Sunday night during the five-course dinner climax to the weekend, and it goes to... the Alfa 33 Stradale. What a weekend: jobs don't come much better than enthusing about your favourite subject, but add five-star hospitality plus a great drive there, and what more could you want? Fire up the Mac', the road home beckons.

Simon Kidston lives and works in a world filled with the finest classics. In between acting as a consultant to collectors and performing as the multi-lingual presenter at top European events, Geneva-based Simon (www.kidston.com) finds time to enjoy his own cars, including a Porsche 911 Carrera 2.7 RS and a Lamborghini Miura SV.