



Touring Superleggera at the 2012 Geneva motor show

For the third year in a row, the international Geneva Motor Show is the stage for a world premiere presentation by Touring Superleggera.

In 2010, the Bentley Flying Star anticipated a trend by redefining a contemporary 'shooting brake'. The following year, the Gumpert Tornante represented a thrilling fusion between speed and style – the ultimate interpretation of a fast *Gran Turismo*.

This year, the Milan based design and coachbuilding company celebrates a true icon and masterpiece from its rich heritage. Just as 60 years ago, when the C52 'Disco Volante' prototype saw the light, Touring Superleggera is triggered by the potential of one of the finest Alfa Romeo sports chassis to design the innovative, breathtaking body of the Disco Volante 2012.

The commercial success of the Bentley Continental Flying Star is emphasized this year by an elegant Crystal Blue unit. Built at the highest quality standards and certified by Bentley Motors, the limited series model keeps drawing international attention, two years after its introduction.

The Touring programme at the Geneva show is a testimony of advanced automotive design and custom coachbuilding. The company is one of the rare firms offering the whole in-house productive cycle from the first sketch, all the way through surface engineering and structural analysis, style models and prototypes, to turn-key, low-volume production of special bodywork.

The 2012 range proves that special coach building can live on well into the 21st century, if enough investment and attention is paid to respecting the strict engineering and quality requirements of today's automotive industry.

Disco Volante 2012 Touring

The *Disco Volante 2012*, designed as a two-seater coupé with front-central engine and transaxle drivetrain, is presented in Geneva in the form of a full scale style model.

The car will be produced as a very limited series for discerning customers: collectors, sporting drivers and design aficionados with appreciation for a tailor-made car based on individual passion and taste.

There exist very few models that rouse fascination like the Alfa Romeo C52 'Disco Volante'. The briefing at Carrozzeria Touring in 1952 mentioned the need for a shape that was 'insensitive to wind'. The unique basic design, featuring an oval cross section, evolved in different versions, and was even registered as 'design patent'.



Using Alfa Romeo 1900 C elements, the car received a new aluminium crankcase, a new tubular chassis, and a very light, striking and efficient aluminium body.

Initially aimed at races in the Sport category, the C52 Disco Volante soon reached the status of design icon. It is one of the most important models in the history of Touring, so innovative that it influenced the automotive design for decades. It also is one of the best examples to illustrate the credo of Touring's founder Felice Bianchi Anderloni "*Il peso è il nemico, la resistenza dell'aria è l'ostacolo*" (weight is the enemy, air resistance the obstacle).

So significant is the Disco Volante in the history of automobile design, that Alfa Romeo has chosen this Touring design to celebrate its own 100th anniversary with a bronze sculpture now exhibited in Milan.

Design

The Disco Volante 2012 design briefing required to blend ingredients as innovation, emotion and aerodynamic properties into a timeless and essential shape. The design language is that of a sports *berlinetta* by Touring, in this case extrovert, clearly pronounced, and tempting.

The integrated front bonnet and wings result in a dramatic monolithic frontal area, while the pronounced muscular rear end treatment leaves no doubts about the car's intentions. The overall teardrop shape reflects classic volumes with respect for aerodynamic values.

Hints to the past can be found in subtle details, when aesthetical solutions were judged to be congruent with the new design. These include the pronounced waist line underlined by the aluminium profile, the partly covered front wheels, and the prolonged lines of the rear section ending with round shaped tail lights..

The final result is a rear-oriented design, with an extended rear overhang, a retracted greenhouse, and a limited front overhang. It combines power and elegance, integrating a balance between potent and fluid lines and the use of refined proportions in the best Touring tradition.

Rolling Chassis

The hard points of the *Disco Volante 2012* are dictated by the Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione chassis, chosen for its light and rigid structure and the outstanding dynamic properties. It forms the perfect basis to receive the totally new, coach built bodywork conserving integrally the rolling chassis and drivetrain.

The front-central engine, transaxle transmission and rear wheel drive layout offers an optimal weight distribution of 49-51% between the front and rear axles.

The steel space-frame is engineered for weight reduction and improved torsional stiffness.



Further feature for top class handling is the front and rear double-wishbone suspension scheme combined with hub carriers of forged aluminium, and additional trailing arms for the rear suspension.

The light and compact V8 engine with 4.7 litre displacement delivers 450 PS and 470Nm peak torque. It is coupled to a 6-speed sequential transaxle gearbox with electronic control and paddle-shift gear selection. A limited slip differential and a state-of-the-art brake system with large diameter, ventilated discs complete the package to endorse precise, dynamic and proactive drive.

The Disco Volante 2012 is a tribute to the best Italian sports car philosophy: refined mechanics dressed with light and exciting bodywork.

Manufacturing Process

Prior to any construction phase at Touring, every new component is CAD designed and documented. The meticulous engineering programme covers feasibility, safety, homologation, aerodynamics and structural analysis. In this process, the most advanced IT tools and simulation techniques are used. Special attention is paid to the underbody structure, a critical factor for quality, torsional stiffness and noise reduction.

Touring has preserved and developed the use of hand-beaten aluminium panels. Today, this traditional way of shaping body parts responds not only to the design requirements, but also to the strictest precision standard.

The weight advantage of aluminium is one of the assets of Touring Superleggera's construction methods. However, carbon fibre is used for specific components such as bumpers and a number of substructures for further weight saving and strength gains.

The entire manufacturing process is fully documented and digitally logged, to guarantee consistent quality levels and accurate reproduction.

3-dimensional reference and measurement tools are used to ensure the highest precision in the assembly stage. Many key detail components and ornaments are entirely manufactured by hand.

The original 8C interior is basically maintained, but modified and upgraded according to the personal preferences and taste of the customer – as an exponent of Touring's automotive tailoring philosophy.

Each unit requires more than 4,000 hours of highly skilled artisan and engineer work to be completed.

The delivery time for a *Disco Volante 2012* is eight months after the reception of the donor vehicle.



TECHNICAL DATA

Dimensions

Length	mm	4,613
Width	mm	2,020
Height	mm	1,335
Wheelbase	mm	2,696
Track front/back	mm	1,591/1,589
Boot volume	l	ca. 200
Fuel tank capacity	l	88

Engine

Cylinders / type		8 / V 90°
Cubic capacity	cm ³	4,691
Nominal output	kW/CV@ rpm	335.6/450@7,000
Max torque	Nm@rpm	470@ 4750
Emission standard		Euro 5

Driveline

6-speed, electroactuated sequential gearbox with paddle-shift control and automatic mode. Limited slip differential.

Wheels

Tires	Pirelli PZero Rosso, front 265/35 ZR20, rear 285/35 ZR20
Wheel type	Aluminium forged wheels

Performance

Top speed (est.)	kph	292
Acceleration (est.)	0-100kph	4.2 sec.

All information is dated March 2012 and could be changed until production start.



Bentley Continental Flying Star by Touring

Another unit of the limited series, an elegant Crystal Blue with two-tone tobacco-tan interior, is showcased on the Geneva booth witnessing the continuing public attention for the innovative shooting brake concept.

While orders keep flowing from at a steady pace, the ingredients of the car's success are multiple. "Before all, the strong and unmistakable design was much appreciated – notes Piero Mancardi, CEO of Touring -. It combines elegance and sportiveness. It is timeless, and perfectly in line with the Touring heritage."

"The very limited production is a parameter for collectability and a driver of the car's future value, - continues the CEO - though the Flying Star is very practical and fit for everyday use. In fact, the compliance with Bentley Motors' quality and engineering standard allows for warranty and service through the regular Bentley dealer network.

Customers also appreciate the value of the 4000 hours of handwork by a team of extraordinary craftsmanship, inheriting 85 years of experience and tradition."

The Flying Star features a number of aesthetical and technical improvements. The boot lid now opens faster and wider, using directly driven gears. For further weight and stiffness is gained with a new design of the rear roll-over structure.

The History of Touring Superleggera

Touring Superleggera is worldwide recognized as one of the iconic names in Italian car design and coachbuilding. Founded by Felice Bianchi Anderloni and Gaetano Ponzoni in 1926, the company started to produce custom built automotive bodywork with two distinctive features from the very beginning: sporting elegance and lightness.

Early customers were reputed car makers as Isotta Fraschini and Alfa Romeo. It would mark the start of a flamboyant period, also culminating in the „Flying Star“ period with several spectacular spider coachworks.

Touring Superleggera also gradually researched the streamlining process. The marriage between this, and their Superleggera construction system using aluminium body panels over a light but rigid tubular steel frame, resulted in some extremely elegant masterpieces such as the 1938 Alfa Romeo 8C2900 Touring spider, which today have become icons of automotive design and body construction.



In 1945, the excellent Carlo Felice Bianchi Anderloni joined his father at the company, which soon started to receive its first orders from Enzo Ferrari. The Ferrari Tipo 166 Touring „Barchetta“ of 1950 formed a new milestone for light, elegant and effective design on a competition chassis.

Under Carlo Felice, Touring saw its industrial customer basis grow in the mainstream of the expanding automotive industry in Italy and Europe. A number of niche models were designed and built on Alfa Romeo 1900, Lancia Flaminia and Maserati 3500. Another new inspired car manufacturer from the Bologna area relied on Touring's skills: Lamborghini, that commissioned its first GT, the 350. In the same period Touring created another iconic automobile: the Aston Martin DB4, followed by the DB5 and 6, manufactured in Newport Pagnell with a license for the Superleggera bodywork system.

Since 2006, Carrozzeria Touring is an all-round supplier of automotive design, engineering and body manufacturing. Design services range from style research to CAS. Engineering activity features body engineering, CAD feasibility studies, FEM/FES analysis, CFD/aerodynamic analysis, virtual crash test.

The manufacturing department provides style models, show cars, rolling concepts, street legal one-offs and limited production series. Recent models include the Bellagio Fastback based on Maserati Quattroporte and the production ready two-seater A8GCS Berlinetta winner of the “Best Supercar of the Year” award in 2008.

They were followed by the acclaimed Bentley Continental Flying Star (2010), manufactured in the company premises in Milan with the endorsement of Bentley Motors, and the Gumpert Tornante by Touring (2011), a superfast Grand Tourer commissioned by the excellent German sports car manufacturer

The company aims at perpetuating the core values of Touring design: purity, integrity, proportions, simplicity, resulting in timeless sporty elegance.

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