



## **TOURING SUPERLEGGERA CELEBRATES ITS 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY AT RÉTROMOBILE WITH TWO STUNNING RESTORATIONS**

- **The restoration department of Touring pays homage to the Italian design with the Ferrari 275 GTS Pininfarina owned by Raquel Welch, and a one-off Maserati A6G bodied by Frua**

PARIS, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016

Once again the restoration guys of Touring showcase something extraordinary at Rétromobile from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Both projects exhibited this year are the paradigm of elegance, technology, excellence and rarity of the Italian grand tourers of their age.

### **1966 Ferrari 275 GTS – VIN 7359 – body nr. PF 175069**

Delivered at first to the dealer in Rome, the Ferrari 275 GTS # 7359 was exported to the US and used by movie star Raquel Welch in the spy comedy film “Fathom” in 1967. So fond was the actress of the car that the director Leslie H. Martinson felt obliged to offer her the blue Ferrari once the movie was released, the legend says.

The stage picture of Welch sensually leaning over the spider spread across the world as an icon of the perfect combination of hot women and cars.

The star regularly drove the car before selling it in 1975 to Louis Wood, who kept it for almost three decades.

The current owner entrusted Touring Superleggera a thorough restoration of bodywork and interior over a sound chassis.

In the six months work the Touring craftsmen repaired most of the panels including the wings, wheel housings, front, doors and boot. After the replacement of the canvas top, the body was resprayed with contemporary technique in the original Caracalla blue shade over a subtle sand Connolly interior.

Functional interventions encompassed the wire harness, instrument panel, seals. In the quest for authenticity brought a non-original centre console was replaced and the beautiful Borrani RW 3874 wire wheels refurbished at the Borrani plant in Milan.

Touring atelier's target is to preserve originality. Classic car panels were hand beaten by skilled craftsmen and no numerical system that we use for modern prototypes can reproduce each car's soul and character. Hence the soft non-symmetry has been left intact, as Touring uses techniques coherent with the age when the car was born.

The Ferrari 275 roadster was produced between 1964 and 1968. It was powered by the famous Colombo 60° V12 engine with capacity brought to 3,286 cc. Only 200 units were built, mainly exported to the US.

The bodywork designed by Pininfarina, an evolution of the former 250, is a masterpiece of sensuality and elegance, the archetypal Italian *Granturismo*.

## **Maserati A6G Gran Sport 2000 coupé Frua – VIN 2028, engine 000161**

The owner was attracted by Touring Superleggera's reputation for accuracy and expertise in the construction techniques of the manufacturing period.

The whole project lasted twelve months. The work started - as usual at Touring - with disassembly and pressurised water scouring. This highlighted the need for structural intervention on the rocker panels, cross members and floor panels.

After validation on the measurement platform, the body was totally removed and inspected. In agreement with the owner, it was decided to preserve and repair as many parts as possible, including straightening of the accident-damaged right side frame members.

The body was then re-assembled on its underpinnings and adjusted for gap and surface alignment. After fitment trial of trim and brightwork the Frua was painted in the original, typical *Amaranto* maroon shade replacing the superposed, hackneyed bright red.

New cabin upholstery, wire harness and instruments, seals and chrome work completed the work before aesthetic and functional quality control and sign-off.

The A6G Gran Sport was the sole series produced Maserati meant for race and road use thanks to its powerful straight-six 2-litre engine. The lightweight space frame chassis gave opportunity to the most renowned coachbuilder to express their creatività.

This Frua one-off coachwork was expressly built for the 1952 Torino Motor Show. The compact bodywork showcases Frua's penchant for curvaceous lines underlined by elegant ornaments, and features exquisite interior. It won two Concours the same year and was then exported to California.

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# Touring Certificate of Authentic Restoration

The value of rare, precious classic cars restored by Touring Superleggera is enhanced by the Certificate of Authentic Restoration. It states that the most accurate historical research has been performed, and that materials, parts and refurbishing techniques are authentic or compatible with the original.

## The History of Touring Superleggera

Touring Superleggera is recognized worldwide 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 was the start of a flamboyant period, culminating in the “Flying Star” era that gave birth to several spectacular spider coachworks.

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

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 166 MM Touring Barchetta of 1948 was 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 Europe and overseas. A number of specialty 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 under license for the Superleggera bodywork system.

Since 2008, Carrozzeria Touring is an all-round supplier of automotive design, engineering and body manufacturing.

Services range from style research and digital design to 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 concept two-seater A8GCS Berlinetta winner of the “Best Supercar of the Year” award in 2009.

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

In 2012 Touring celebrated a masterpiece from its rich heritage, taking inspiration from the Alfa C52 Disco Volante of sixty years before. The innovative, breathtaking Alfa Romeo Disco Volante,

built by hand in a limited run of up to eight units, won the coveted Design Award at Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este 2013.

In 2014 in collaboration with MINI, Touring Superleggera designed and built an elaborately crafted, unique concept car to explore new design languages for the iconic British brand. Exhibited at Villa d'Este as the BMW Group's annual design statement, the MINI Superleggera™ Vision blends the tradition of classic coachwork construction with MINI's authentic British styling to create timeless aesthetic appeal.

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

Design, manufacturing and restoration activities are run in the company premises nearby Milan.