CLASSIC DRIVER

Barons at Sandown Park, Surrey Dec 2 2003 - Preview

Described as 'the high priestess of frosty sensuality', Italian actress Monica Vitti, trained at Rome's National Academy of Dramatic Arts, clearly eschewed the more obvious trappings of wealth in the early 1970s, choosing instead a very sophisticated understated form of transport; a Citroen DS 20 Pallas. This very car is included in Barons' last auction of 2003, and £3,500 - 4,000 will buy you a slice of 'La Dolce Vita'.

OK, so she did not feature in Fellini's classic 1960 erotic-drama but I think you get the picture. This particular car was supplied to the Italian film star

by Italian dealer Bonaventure of Rome, and it remained with Ms Vitti until it was recently acquired by the vendor. Barons understand that it has been maintained throughout its life by the supplying main dealer - now owned by the salesman who originally sold the car to Ms Vitti. The original extras that included air-conditioning, leather and a removable radio are all present and perfectly correct. Great car for the romantic Italophile film buff, and a total conversation stopper at the next classic car meeting.



On slightly more traditional

ground, and very much back in the tweeds and gundog camp, Barons have a couple of six-cylinder **Aston Martins**, both of which have interesting histories. The **1961 DB4**, estimate £47,000 – 55,000, is a genuine two-owner car that has never been offered on the open market before. Finished in Black Pearl, with charcoal leather interior, it will no doubt present well on the day but, as always with these cars, underlying condition is all - the car has been the subject of a seven-year restoration in the 1990s. The **1963 Aston Martin DB4**, £40,000 – 50,000, is a well-known car on the AMOC racing scene and is not unfamiliar to your author - having spent many happy days away with its owners on foreign racing forays in the past. A Series IV SS series car with the later 'DB5' headlamp treatment, it will be interesting to see the price realised on the day.



Talking to Laurence Sayers Gillan of Barons today, he explained that the **Mercedes W107 SL** series are regulars at the Sandown Park auction venue. True to form, no less than six of these truly classic cars, that provide such solid motoring at frequently reasonable prices, are entered in the sale. Ranging from a Yellow **1978 280SL** at £5,500 - 7,000 to a Mint Green **1986 300SL** at £9,000 - 11,000 there are engine/colour



