

# CLASSIC DRIVER

## '55 Le Mans class winning Porsche emerges onto open market for first time in two decades



**One of the most successful of all Porsche 550 Spyders - the Stuttgart marque's first bespoke competition model as immortalized by Hollywood heart-throb James Dean - is to be offered on the open market for the first time in over 20 years.**

This lightweight German sports car was one of three built in the factory's *Werke 1* in May 1955 for the **Le Mans 24 Hour** race of that year. Carrying race number '49' (and chassis 550-0048'), it was the **Porsche AG** entry driven in the rain-soaked event by legendary Corvette guru **Zora Arkus Duntov** and Frenchman **Auguste Veillet** (later Porsche's French importer), covering 3,303.570km at an average speed of 137,647km/h to take victory in the hotly contested 1100cc class.

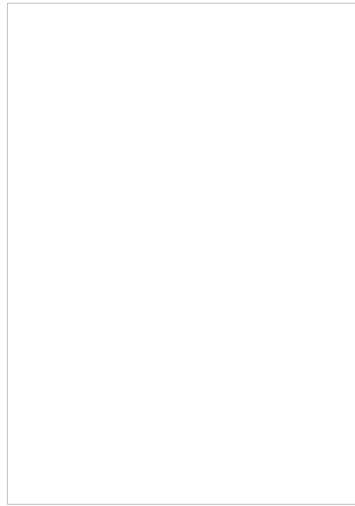


Perhaps even more surprisingly, just two months later, chassis '550-0048' was piloted by **Richard von Frankenberg** to outright victory in the Production Sports Car race at the **Swedish Grand Prix**, beating much bigger **Jaguars** and **Maseratis**. In January 1956 it was tested by *Road and Track* magazine, now uprated to 1500cc four cam power, possibly competing again in that year's **Mille Miglia** before entering private ownership.

For the past four decades this historic Porsche has been rarely seen in public, spending the last 20 years in the hands of a reclusive collector who has now instructed **Kidston SA** of Geneva to [offer it for sale](#) together with an equally successful [Porsche 904](#). If racing red Ferraris are no longer exclusive enough for you, here's Simon Kidston's e-mail: [simon.kidston@kidston.com](mailto:simon.kidston@kidston.com).

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