

CLASSIC DRIVER

Paris Rétromobile 2010 - Review



For those strong enough to resist the attractions of the adjacent *Salon International de la Lingerie*, Rétromobile this year proved another must-do event.

Picking a 'Best of Show' car would be a tricky one. Looking at the stands - patriotism aside - British dealers such as **Hall & Hall** and **Fiskens** had dramatic, enticing arrays of cars set on classy backdrops, while **Mercedes-Benz** revisited the 'Gullwing' theme again with great success. If, like me, you hold the fantastic **300 SL** series dear, the sight of an early prototype and a series production car flanking the latest **SLS AMG** was an impressive one.





Hall & Hall created something special in 2009, with its stunning early '**Gullwing**' racer and ex-works **F1 Porsche**. Representing the company, **Bill Harding** explained: "Well, we like to bring out cars that no-one has seen before."

This year's display includes the one-off **Bugatti Royale** 'recreation' commissioned by the late **Tom Wheatcroft** (the vast limousine, touchingly, carrying a photograph of the arch-enthusiast as if reclining in the back).

There was also a 'barn find' **GT40** road car (originally sold to **Max Aitken**), an **ex-Le Mans and Targa Florio 1962 Alfa Romeo SZ Coda Tronca** and a couple of F1 cars...





...you know, everyday stuff like a **Jackie Stewart BRM** and the **Ickx/Regazzoni Ferrari 312B3**, chassis 003. A 'dream garage', in anyone's fantasies, that would even include an **Austin**: the giant-killing, **supercharged 750cc car** made famous by **Charles Dodson** and **George Hadley** in the Thirties.

We've already told you about [Fiskens' fine display](#) and, come midday on Friday, several well-known collectors were deep in conversation with Gregor and the team.





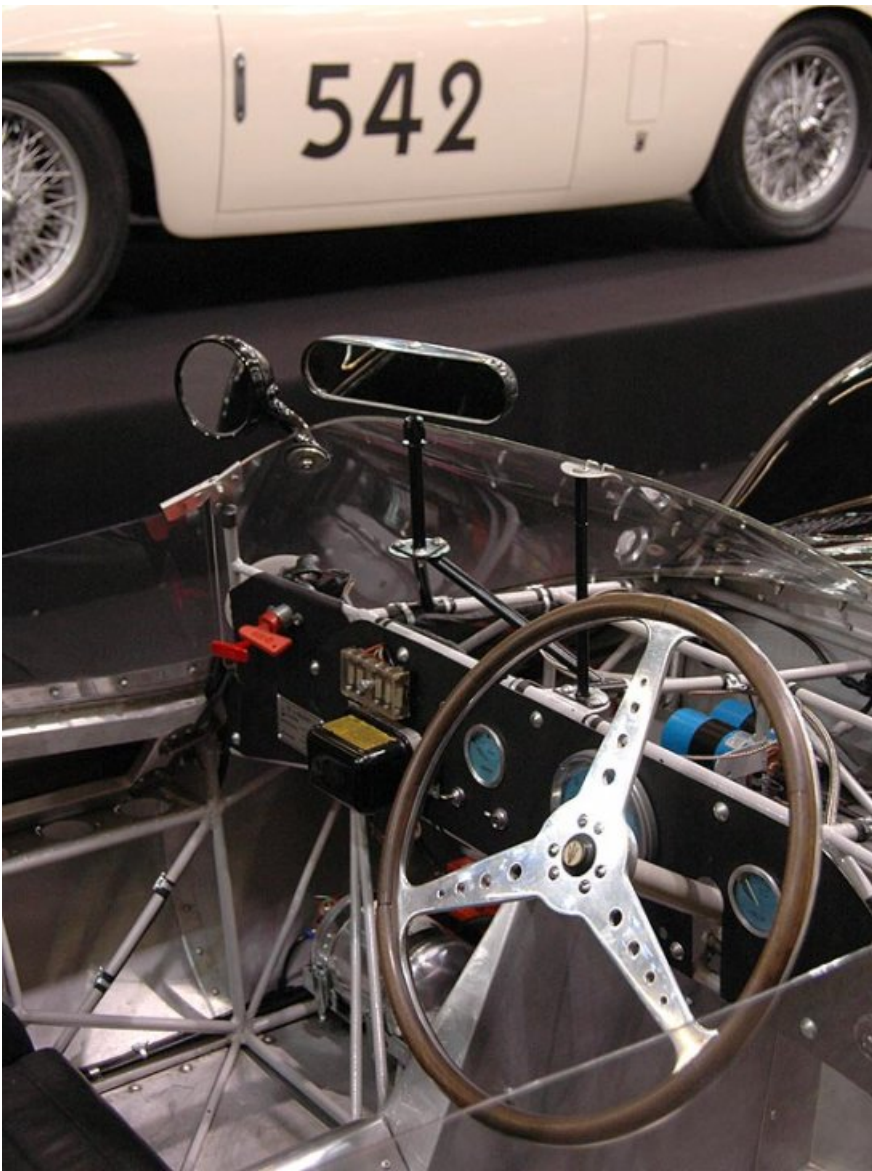




Flying the *drapeau tricolore* were **Peugeot** and **Citroën**, with large stands showing some iconic models from the past including several **SMs** and a variety of **Peugeots** to celebrate the company's 200th anniversary. Likewise, **Alfa Romeo** had much to show from its 100-year history and at **Rétromobile** this year a **pre-War Spider** shared floor space with a modern **8C Competizione**.



Zurich-based specialist *sans pareil* **Lukas Hüni** produced its customary top-level selection of cars for the well-heeled. Among the glittering **Maserati** ('Birdcage') and **Ferrari** (ex-Escuderia Montjuich 512M) sports racers, sat a dark blue **Lancia Flaminia by Zagato**. One of those 'you could have bought that cheaply a few years ago...' cars, it was a (reasonably affordable) highlight of the show.





Bonhams had moved its sale upstairs, to the event hall itself, from last year's less-than-successful ground floor location. You can read the [review elsewhere on Classic Driver](#), but needless to say it was the Lake Maggiore-found **1925 Bugatti Brescia Type 22 Roadster** selling for 260,500 euros that occupied the headlines.



Elsewhere at **Rétromobile**, visitors could browse endless stands of automobilia, oil cans, spark plugs and headlamps, or sign up to an entry at this year's **Le Mans Classic**. Among all the models, paintings and memorabilia, one of my favourites was the selection of vintage chronometers from www.classicheuer.de.

And one of **Classic Driver**'s favourites, whitefly.cc of Buenos Aires, was showing a new book about South American motor racing, '**Argentina F1 Grand Prix Vol. 1: 1953**'. Full review to follow.

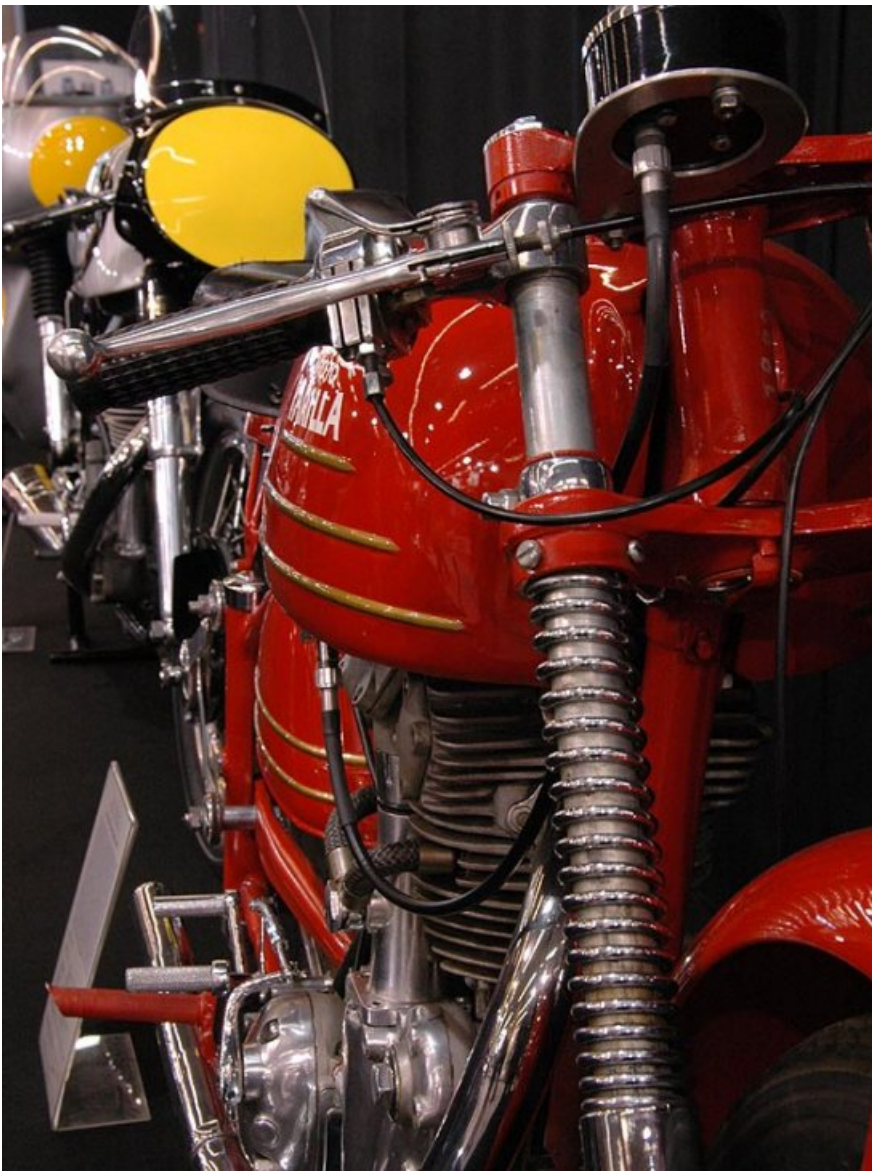


All in all, it was another good show and, as ever, if you've never been, do try and make it next year.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the **full results** for the **Bonhams Automobiles d'Exception à Rétromobile sale**.















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