CLASSIC DRIVER

Bonhams 'Les Grandes Marques à Monaco', 20 May 2011: Review

1976/1983 308GTB Berlinetta Group B Michelotto: Sold for 460,000 euros

Ferraris took the top slots at Bonhams' 2011 Monaco auction. The big BBLM was a non-seller, but another competition car, the 1976/1983 308GTB Berlinetta Group B Michelotto, sold for 460,000 euros and a convertible that has 'Monaco DNA' in its blood, the 1965 275 GTS Spyder, achieved 437,000 euros.

With around half the catalogue non-selling, plus a handful of withdrawn lots, it wasn't the best result seen at the Principality. In mitigation, RM was holding a big-hitting event at Villa d'Este 24 hours later, and Bonhams themselves were to conduct another super-successful (£5.8m) all-Aston Martin sale at Newport Pagnell the next day.

Of the selling cars at Monaco, both the Mercedes 300SLs found new owners, the 1955 'Gullwing' going for 563,500 euros and the 1958 Roadster 373,750 euros.

Other perennial Classic Driver office favourites included the 1964 Fiat-Abarth 850TC Group 2 Historic Racing Saloon (16,100 euros and a super fun/value combination), the 1985 Porsche 911 Turbo (39,100 euros... the only way is up) and the 1970 Maserati Indy 4.1-Litre Coupé (crazy, vibrant metallic green colour; sensible, 23,672-euro price).

1985 Porsche 911 Turbo: Sold for 39,100 euros 1965 Ferrari 275 GTS Spyder: Sold for 437,000 euros

The ex-Rob Walker 1958 2-litre Cooper-Climax Type 45 Formula 1 car sold for 184,000 euros, giving the buyer a nice entry for next year's Monaco Historics, while the 1961 Jaguar E-type Series I Roadster, a 'Flat Floor' LHD car in gunmetal grey, showed just how high the interest is in the iconic cars in their 50th year. It sold for 90,000 euros.

1958 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Roadster: Sold for 373,750 euros 1964 Fiat-Abarth 850TC Group 2 Historic Racing Saloon: Sold for 16.100 euros

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