

# CLASSIC DRIVER

## BMW 328 'Homage'

**No, you're not seeing double, there really are two 'm's in the name of BMW's latest styling exercise, a two-seater roadster debuting at Villa d'Este. A sort of 'Homage' by name, 'homage' by nature, if you like, as the new car is dedicated to the famous BMW 328 which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.**

The Bavarian company is justly proud of its heritage, though BMW is stretching the point somewhat to describe its pre-War 328 as one "considered the most successful and best-looking sports car of the 1930s". Alfa 8C or Bugatti Type 57, anyone? It was a very modern design, that's true, with a beautifully engineered straight-six that saw racing service well in to the 1950s and in coupé form won the 1940 Mille Miglia – which lends the 'MM' to the new car's name.

[Villa d'Este, the world's most exclusive concours d'elegance](#), coming just a week after the running of the modern retrospective Mille Miglia event, was the perfect venue for the striking design created by a team led by top designer Adrian van Hooydonk. "Carbon is the material of the future," he said, and extensive use is made of what was once a space-age material but is now seen in greater quantities throughout the automobile industry.

Many styling cues from the 1930s original are reprised in the Homage. It has a strikingly vertical and pronounced twin-kidney grille. The wheels are two-part with 'cooling holes', and the windscreen is asymmetric; split and curving its centre, with the focus on the driver.



Unpainted, the carbonfibre bodywork has natural-colour leather 'straps' as if tying the bonnet down. It also features round headlamps, each divided into four individual bulbs with a 'cross' effect imitating the plastic tape used on racing cars in the 30s, 40s and 50s. There are no doors.

Inside the cockpit, only round instruments can be seen, many having a retro 'stop watch' look and feel. The instrument panel is fitted with two iPhones located in special holders. These offer additional display functions for the driver and co-driver.

The concept is all about style and possible future trends for the innovative Bavarian company – little is known about the running gear apart from the engine being a 3.0-litre straight six. What else.





*Photos: BMW*

**Gallery**







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