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# 1961 Maserati 3500 - 3500 GT Spider Vignale avec Hard Top

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Lot sold	<b>USD 0</b> EUR 0 (listed)	Drive	LHD
Year of manufacture	1961	Interior colour	Other
Chassis number	101.1221	Condition	Used
Lot number	144	Location	
		Fuel type	Other
		Exterior colour	Other
		Car type	Other

## Description

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French title

- Sold new in Paris
- Matching numbers
- Completely original
- Same owner between 1979 and 2013
- One of 245 examples built

Manufactured between 1957 and 1964, it could be said that the 3500 GT saved Maserati from financial ruin. The previous model, the extraordinary A6G 2000, had been produced on too small a scale. The costs incurred by the competition department were extremely high, and despite winning the World Championship in 1957, the Trident marque was in poor financial shape when, for the first time, a Maserati production model finally appeared that was a commercial success.

The prototype, a coupé by Touring, was presented in Geneva on 20 March 1957 and the orders started to flow in from the Turin Motor Show in the same year. The superb engine was derived directly from the racing machines and the car had great road handling. It was perhaps only the drum brakes on the early models that had room for improvement. The coachbuilder Allemano built four

coupés between 1958 -59 and during this last year, Bertone built one coupé and Pietro Frua one spider. Apart from these exceptions, Touring was responsible for the manufacture of all coupés.

Disc brakes were fitted as an option in 1959 and became standard in 1960. The factory produced seven coupés a week during 1960, and more than eighty-eight short chassis models were given spider bodies by Vignale. While almost two thousand coupés rolled off the production line, a little under two hundred and fifty spiders saw the light of day. This was a magnificent car, with superb proportions and a rare elegance.

This extremely original Vignale Spider was delivered on 20 March 1961 to the Thepenier Garage, on the Quai Carnot in Saint-Cloud (the Parisian marque importer). The first owner, Monsieur Fabrice Virgilio, took delivery of the car on 19 April 1961, not registering it until 13 June 1962, presumably for homologation purposes. On 23 March 1967 it was sold to its second owner in Var on the Côte d'Azur, who kept it until 1972. A certain Salvatore Starace, from Nice, registered the car in his name on 24 November 1972, with the number '3617 SA 06'. It changed hands again on 29 April 1979, selling to the previous owner, a Parisian bookseller, who kept it until last year. He drove the car infrequently for several years before storing it in his lock-up from 1991 onwards, with the hard top stored above the car, suspended from the ceiling. The current owner, a Lamborghini owner, entrusted the car to the renowned business Automobiles T.S. where Monsieur Sisinni undertook a meticulous recommissioning, leaving the totally original coachwork untouched. Only the windscreen was changed as the old one was damaged. This is an incredibly sound car in every respect. In Toni Sisinni's view, it has never been dismantled and is thus in very well conserved and completely original condition. The leather upholstery, hood and carpets are all original.

The current owner, who had planned to keep this automobile, has finally made progress with the purchase of an important Lamborghini that he has been monitoring for some time. Not being in a position to keep both, he has opted to go for his preferred marque and is selling the Vignale.

This Maserati 3500 Vignale Spider evidently presents an incredibly rare opportunity to acquire an untouched automobile that was sold new in Paris, has spent all its life in France and has been in the hands of one owner for 35 years ! The Maserati Vignale Spider shares the podium with the Ferrari 250 California and the Mercedes Benz 300 SL roadster for the most beautiful cabriolets of the second half of the 20th century.

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