

CLASSIC DRIVER

Italian elegance aplenty at RM's Villa Erba sale

Lead

RM's Villa Erba sale this weekend will see 36 cars - many of which would be worthy of a spot on the neighbouring concours lawn - go under Max Girardo's well-weathered hammer...

Glamourama on the shoreline



Headlining the sale is (surprise, surprise) a pair of golden-era Ferraris: a [1961 open-headlight SWB California Spider](#), and a [212 Export Barchetta from 1952](#). The former, estimated to fetch €11m - €13m, was restored in recent years by Ferrari Classiche and has the certificate to prove it - although the decision to paint it in a non-original colour scheme might prove to be a costly one for the current owner. Meanwhile, the 212 has good period competition credentials and offers eligibility for a wide range of historic events; perhaps the recent media coverage of the [Mille Miglia](#) will help nudge bids towards the upper echelons of the €5.5m - €7m estimate.

Now to choose a land tender for the Riva...



As you might expect, Ferraris make up a good percentage of the rest of the lotlist, with sub-headliners including a [Series II 250 GT Cabrio \(estimate €1.5m - €2m\)](#), a [195 Inter Berlinetta by Ghia \(€1.25m - €1.65m\)](#), a stunning ['Pino Verde' 250 GT Lusso \(€1.8m - €2.2m\)](#) and the [yellow 250 SWB Berlinetta Competizione \(estimate on request\)](#) so often seen mixing it at the [Revival](#) in recent years. There's a (completely understandable) Italian bias to the rest of the lotlist, too; Lancia is represented by a [Stratos Stradale](#) the factory originally intended for competition use (€350,000 - €450,000), as well as a [Zagato Flaminia Sport](#) that's modestly estimated at €250,000 - €320,000 due to the less-desirable open headlights. But our favourite Italian is lot 132: the [only Fiat 'Otto Vu' cabriolet made by Vignale \(€1.1m - €1.4m\)](#), and perhaps the perfect land tender for the [ex-Bardot Riva Florida](#) - now the only Riva in the sale (€80,000 - €120,000) as the Aquarama Special has been withdrawn. Oh, and how could we forget the [1949 Alfa Romeo 6C 2500SS Villa d'Este \(€600,000 - €700,000\)](#), the very example we proposed might be [the most elegant classic car ever](#) last time it was up for sale?

From the non-domestic contingent, highlights include a [one-off BMW-Glas 3000 V8 coachbuilt by Frua \(€380,000 - €480,000\)](#), a [two-tone Lagonda V12 Drophead Coupé \(€185,000 - €250,000\)](#), and an [Austin-Healey 100S \(estimate €900,000 - €1,100,000\)](#).

Photos: RM Sotheby's

Gallery

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