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The only surviving Ford GT40 Roadster, and it needs a new owner...

Lead

In the 1960s, the race of all races was the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and tired of watching from afar, Henry Ford II decided to build a new race car to compete in the battle. After dealings with Ferrari fell through, Ford began negotiations with Lola Cars, and by May 1964, the Ford GT40 was built...

Ready to hit the road(ster)



While the initial run of the GT40 at Le Mans was unsuccessful, resulting in a DNF, Henry Ford II saw great potential and decided to stick with the model, creating 12 prototypes until they got the formula right. Built for Shelby American, this example was the eighth prototype and the first of six roadsters built. In its role as a test and development car, it was demonstrated all over the United States, from Laguna Seca and Riverside to Sebring and Daytona, by such racing legends as Ken Miles, Carroll Shelby, and Jim Clark. And while the history of this mighty machine is quite impressive, what's probably the most talked-about feature is that it's the only of the 12 to remain original. As all others were either destroyed or adapted over the years, including the rest of the roadsters being fitted with roof panels to enclose them, this GT40 was saved from similar fates and faithfully preserved by enthusiast owners over the years. Apart from Charlotte, the ever-wise confidant of Wilbur the pig, this may be the most famous American spyder to ever come out of the history books...

Photos: Girardo & Co.

Gallery

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