


CLASSIC DRIVER



1968 Aston Martin DBS

Lot sold	USD 116 992 - 168 989 GBP 90 000 - 130 000 (listed)	Drive	LHD
Year of manufacture	1968	Condition	Used
Chassis number	DBS/5148/R	Location	
Number of seats	2	Fuel type	Petrol
Drivetrain	2wd	Exterior colour	Other
Lot number	260		

Description

Offered from the estate of the late Peter Phillips
1968 Aston Martin DBS Vantage Sports Saloon
Registration no. OEL 565G
Chassis no. DBS/5148/R

Although always intended to house the new Tadek Marek-designed V8 engine, the Aston Martin DBS first appeared with the 4.0-litre 'six' of the concurrently produced DB6. This well proven engine was available in standard tune, producing 282bhp, or to Vantage specification with triple Weber 45DCOE carburettors, special camshafts and a higher compression ratio, in which form its maximum was raised to 325bhp.

Styled in-house by Bill Towns, the beautiful DBS caused quite a stir, Autocar magazine observing that: "Without the aid of an Italian stylist the Newport Pagnell team came up with something as modern, handsome and Italianate as anything from the Turin coachbuilders at that time".

Beneath its shapely exterior the DBS employed a platform-type chassis with independent suspension all round: wishbone and coil-spring at the front, De Dion with Watts linkage at the rear. Larger and more luxuriously appointed than the DB6, the heavier DBS disappointed some by virtue of its slightly reduced performance, but the Vantage version's top speed of 140mph and a standing quarter-mile time of 16.3 seconds were highly respectable figures nonetheless. Assessing the virtues of Aston's new flagship, Autocar judged it superior to the DB6 in many areas, the bigger DBS offering four full-sized seats in addition to transformed handling and roadholding courtesy of the new rear suspension and standardised power steering.

"Turning to matters other than performance, we really were most tremendously impressed by the DBS," enthused Car magazine. "The interior, especially merits praise not only for its uniquely satisfying aesthetics and superb finish (way, way ahead of any Italian rival in this respect) but also for the thought that has gone into the ergonomics of its layout."

Although less well known as such than the earlier 'DB' series, the DBS is yet another 'James Bond' Aston Martin, having featured in the 1969 motion picture, On Her Majesty's Secret Service, starring George Lazenby as the eponymous secret agent.

Finished in the same colour scheme as the Lazenby DBS Olive with black leather interior this example benefits from a most extensive (though not 'body off') restoration completed by Works Service in December 2008 at a cost of £190,400 (see detailed invoice on file). Works carried out include rebuilding the engine to 'unleaded' compatibility; fitting new Weber carburettors; replacing the automatic transmission with a five-speed manual gearbox to original specification; stripping bare, repairing and repainting the body; and re-trimming the interior. 'OEL 565G' remained in storage at Works Service following completion.

When offered for sale at Bonhams' auction of Aston Martin motor cars at Works Service in May 2011, the DBS (Lot 317) was presented in the kind of condition one would expect following such a thorough rebuild by the best-qualified technicians in the field. Purchased there by Stratton Motor Company on Peter Phillips' behalf, the Aston has been serviced regularly by Stratton's since acquisition; not used for the last 18 months, it has nevertheless been started regularly and stored in a modern purpose built car storage barn commissioned by Peter Phillips. Accompanying documentation consists of sundry service invoices, a V5C Registration Certificate, and the aforementioned restoration records.

Bonhams 1793

Bonhams

AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1793

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