CLASSIC DRIVER

5 collector cars to put in your garage this week

Lead

We make no apology for choosing five Italian cars this week and there's something for all budgets, but the style runs deep throughout the gleaming paintwork on all of them.

Bullish Gandini angles





Maybe that's a bit of a strong statement, today the LP400 styling looks uncluttered and clean in design, compared to modern hyper cars with diffusers and splitters at all angles. This 1974 car presented in Argento, with a gorgeous contrasting tobacco interior, is perfection and is the only LP400 to leave the factory in this combination. Official research suggests that the man himself Walter Wolf, was once in charge of this magnificent example. Having spent its early years in America, the car found its way back to Europe and benefits from a part restoration in the later part of 2019. Thankfully the interior was left untouched, so that the patina can be enjoyed by its new owner.

The contemporary grand tourer comes of age





Only a fool under values the Ferrari 612 Scaglietti, a true four-seater Ferrari that is ageing extremely well. The shape of the 612 is very colour sensitive, Joe Macari are offering this Cana di Fucile example, which is a visual treat to the eyes. One-to-One was Ferrari's 612 personalisation programme, offering bespoke finishing options and the first owner of this car has made some fine choices. One styling issue with the car was always the smaller standard wheels, but with the 20 inch 'Challenge' style wheels this has been addressed and finishes off this car perfectly.

Zagato's streamlined masterpiece





So often regarded as Zagato's finest hour, this 1966, Rosso Matador, Lancia Flaminia Super Sport Zagato is oozing with period charm. Adorned with the much admired 'double bubble' coachwork, triple carburetor 2.8-litre engine and recessed headlights, this later model shows off the nine years of improved development. The Lancia is understated class, the kind of car you could expect your favourite 60s film star to cruise around in without generating too much attention. Now it's your turn!

Effortlessly cool with a film star past





Before you go any further, watch this video clip of an Espada being chased by a Fiat 130 coupe. Ok, finished? If you still haven't picked up the phone to buy this boxy, slice of 70s cool then how about the fact that it was one of Gianni Agnelli's favourite cars. In fact he had a shooting brake version designed just for him! This example has the later 3.2-litre engine with a healthy 165bhp as standard and a manual gearbox. It also has it's own claim to fame that it starred in the Italian cult B movie, "Torino centrale del vizio".

The Ferrari in an Italian suit





Italian, check, manual, check, Ferrari engine, check. Front wheel drive, saloon car... Ummm? Yes, the Lancia Thema 8.32 is an acquired taste, but the fact remains, 'Q cars' do not get much more exotic than this. Subtle styling tweaks, a luxurious leather interior, unique Ferrari 348 style wheels, an electric spoiler and that 32-valve V8 engine. Ingredients for a tasty Italian dish that today, still represents great value for money. Given that under 4000 were originally made these cars will surely be sought after in the future. This 1989 example is a lovely well cared for, low-mileage example.

Photos: Schaltkulisse GmbH, Joe Macari, Very Superior Old Cars, Auto Classic Italy, Emile Bakker Autos

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