

# CLASSIC DRIVER

## [And that's a wrap: these were Classic Driver's 23 must-read stories of 2023](#)

### Lead

The most spectacular cars, the most exclusive events, the most influential personalities: here they are, the 23 most talked about, influential, and essential Classic Driver stories that you must have read in 2023.



### **Sky's the limit for this Range Rover Goodwood tailor-made by Wood & Pickett**

While the Range Rover has always been the 4x4 of choice for royals and industrials alike, sun-loving jetsetters were missing an open-top version for their tropical hideaways. Luckily, London-based coachbuilders Wood & Pickett solved that problem in bespoke quality and style.

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### **This Arden AJ6 will make you feel like a real East London Guv'nor**

Even if its provenance isn't entirely British, as Arden – the company behind this magnificent and quite unique coach-built Jaguar – hails from the Ruhr area of Germany, this black AJ6 might just be the perfect car if you want to cosplay into a character from an early Guy Ritchie movie.

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**These cars were almost too hot for the frozen lake at The ICE St Moritz**

The heat was on last weekend in Switzerland’s glitziest winter wonderland. And racing the priceless collector and concept cars across the ice of the lake at times felt like driving through frozen daiquiri. Still, The ICE St Moritz once again proved to be the coolest car event of them all.

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**A morning sprint over Bernina Pass with Aloisa Ruf in the CTR Anniversary prototype**

What could be better to drive out winter than an early morning drive over a famous Swiss mountain pass? Doing it in an all-carbonfiber, 710 hp monster expertly driven by the daughter of the man who made it.

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**Here’s why the Pajero Evolution is as hot as the South African sun**

Born out of the Dakar Rally, the Mitsubishi Pajero Evolution is one of the few homologation specials where prices have yet to go through the roof. We headed to Knysna in South Africa to experience it for ourselves.

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**Don’t shoot the messenger! These 7 SUVs are now modern classics**

SUVs have been a market staple for so long that we think a few might just have achieved modern classic status. This may sound like sacrilege, but take a look below and see if we can change your mind.

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**Experiencing driving euphoria with three Lamborghini legends**

It was just an average week for our staff editor Elliot Newton, until an email from Lamborghini changed all that, and the dream of getting to know some of the brand’s most iconic models in the hills around Sant’Agata became a reality.

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**Meet the ultimate, 1000 horsepower BMW M1 Turbo that never raced**

The story of the BMW M1 and the subsequent Procar Championship is one of motorsports' greatest. Or most disappointing, depending on the point of view. Welcome to the Jägermeister-liveried, turbocharged Group 5 racer that writes the M1 saga's last chapter.

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**This year’s Concorso d’Eleganza Villa d’Este was loud, wet and absolutely over the top**

Just when we thought it could not surprise us anymore, the Concorso d’Eleganza Villa d’Este taught us better – with a speed-metal concert of howling racing engines, unseen coachbuilt dream creatures, seaplanes in low-level flight and an armada of Maharaja cars in the pouring rain.

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**Over 800 racing engines sang happy birthday at the Le Mans Classic centenary celebrations!**

How much did you walk this weekend? We managed a daily average of 20 km, which was an easy feat while trying to see everything at the biggest motoring event in Europe: the 2023 Le Mans Classic. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the famed endurance race, and it was one for the history books!

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**Classic Driver and Flitzer celebrate Gran Futurismo at E-Werk Berlin**

Built as an electrical substation 100 years ago, the iconic E-Werk became a hotspot for Berlin’s techno scene in the 1990s. Before the heritage site writes its next chapter, Flitzer and Classic Driver invited friends to a journey through the past, present and future of the automobile.

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**Morton Street Partners time-warped back to 1971 for this period-correct road trip**

We often talk of those ‘glory days’, back when the fuel was cheap, the outfits were cool, and the cars were out of this world. For the team at Morton Street Partners, talk was cheap, so they went to experience a slice of the high-life in the early 1970s with a Citroën SM.

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**Donald Osborne wants you to buy the car you love!**

Donald Osborne is one of the most knowledgeable, interesting and friendly faces in the automotive world. We caught up with the Audrain Group’s CEO to talk cars and the art of appraising.

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**The Sultan of Brunei’s Ferrari 456 GT Venice Cabriolet will leave you green with envy**

The Ferrari 456 GT was already one of the brand’s more obscure models, but we doubt you’ll have ever heard of this: the incredibly rare Ferrari 456 GT Venice Cabriolet, commissioned by the Sultan of Brunei.

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**Celebrating 15 seconds of automotive fame at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance**

Last Sunday, 216 cars from 18 countries pulled onto the manicured lawns of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, representing the greatest moments in automotive history. To us, these cars were the most remarkable.

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**Talking to the Driver with the custodians of the Pearl Collection**

Every year, A. Lange & Söhne and Classic Driver produce another episode for our Talk To The Driver series. The fourth instalment has to be considered the most special one yet, as Wilhelm Schmid, Lange's CEO, talks to not only one but three passionate drivers - all members of the Burkard family.

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**Going sideways with Eugenio Amos in the all-new Safarista**

The Safarista is here! After covering the launch of Automobili Amos’ latest and greatest restomod as the official media partner, we joined Eugenio Amos and Carlo Borromeo for the car’s first shakedown to learn about the past, present and future of the Italian firm.

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**Measuring the weight of lightness with Alfredo Häberli and his Porsche 356 Art Car**

How can you achieve a lot with less? Alfredo Häberli addresses this question in his work. Now the Swiss designer has transformed a Porsche 356 SC into a subtle art car. A tribute to the art of reduction.

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**A McLaren F1 for Mortals? Meet the Ascari Ecosse**

Looking for an ultra-rare, BMW-powered supercar? Forget the McLaren F1, be like Neal Heffron and buy an Ascari Ecosse instead!

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**Designer John Heffernan reinvented Aston Martin and Bentley with these two cars**

In the late 1980s, John Heffernan created the two most desirable Grand Tourers of the time with the Aston Martin V8 Virage and Bentley Continental R. As both cars become modern classics, we met the automotive designer to learn more about the development of his game-changing signature cars.

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**For the love of quirk: One man’s journey into the weird and wonderful side of car collecting**

Tucked away in an immaculately kept converted launderette in the South of Brussels sits a wonderland of quirk, where Jean Werner’s collecting habits aren’t confined to your typical classic Ferraris or Lamborghinis...

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**We celebrated 25 years of Classic Driver with a glorious birthday bash in London**

To celebrate Classic Driver’s 25th anniversary and the launch of our new book, we invited friends and readers to a birthday party at Duke of London. Naturally, the London crowd brought along some exceptional cars.

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**Getting Schooled in Tom Cruise’s V8-powered Brabus SLK65**

In 1998, Brabus took the small-car-massive-engine concept to the extreme with the supremely rare, V8-powered Mercedes SLK65. Once used as a set runabout by Tom Cruise, we took this pocket rocket back to school.

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