



## Touring Superleggera at Rétromobile 2014

- While classic cars reach peak market prices, Touring Superleggera of Milan enhances the value of perfectly restored cars with its Certificate of Authentic Restoration
- One of seven coach built Bristol 401 restoration in progress exhibited along with the original dismantled skin

The famous Italian coachbuilder displays in Paris a rare project from its restoration department:

### **Bristol 401 Touring - VIN 401-1-217 - Body n° 3256**

Project to be certified with the Touring Certificate of Authentic Restoration.

In 1947, Bristol Aeroplane commissioned Touring Superleggera to design and engineer the body of their second model, the 401. Bristol planned to add their own expertise in aerodynamics to Touring's patented "Superleggera" construction technique and flair for elegance, to create a "compact, lightweight, high-performance international sporting car for the family".

Bristol later dismissed the project. The "production" 401 ended with quite conventional shape and body technology. The cooperation, however, resulted in a limited batch of 7 or 8 cars to be coach built in Milan, with the typical aluminium panel body on a tiny steel tubular frame.

# 217 belongs to this limited batch. Thanks to the powerful BMW derived engine, it has a racing pedigree with former owner Tony Vandervell finishing 8th overall at the Monte Carlo Rally.

This Touring design anticipates what was later called the "Villa d'Este" style, with the signature "wrinkles" subtly sweeping back from the wheel arches.

The car is showcased at Rétromobile at Body-in-White stage along with the original dismantled body, which the owner will preserve for documentation and as collection item alike. It was used as reference to determine the exact shape of the new body.

The design team redesigned the missing boot lid with 3D techniques, while original plans determined the position and curve of the "Superleggera" support tubes.

After sanding and thorough repair of the rusted frame members, reconstruction was necessary for the A-pillars, side vents, fuel tank, glove compartments and battery tray. The new skin panels were assembled, fixed to the Superleggera frame, gap and surface adjusted and aligned.

More work is coming before completion and delivery of the coveted Touring Certificate of Authentic Restoration. The forthcoming steps require paintwork, placing a new wiring harness, fitting interior panels trimmed to original design, completing with glasses, mouldings and exterior trim and refurbishing instruments.

Touring atelier's philosophy is to preserve originality. In classic cars, panels were hand beaten by skilled craftsmen and no numerical system we use for modern prototypes can reproduce the soul and character of their era. Mild asymmetries are left intact, as Touring's techniques are coherent with the age when the car was born.



## **Touring Certificate of Authentic Restoration**

The value of each classic car restored by Touring Superleggera is enhanced by the Certificate of Authentic Restoration. It warrants that the restoration is performed not only according to the art book, but also respecting rules and processes of the age they were built.

If the car is a Touring design, the certification extends to the truthful respect of the authentic shapes and details. The certification requires a compelling historical research, the sourcing of original parts or their reconstruction based on original blueprints, the use of techniques contemporary to the construction age, and extends to the research of compatible colour palettes

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Touring atelier's target is to preserve originality. Classic car panels were hand beaten by skilled craftsmen and no numerical system that we use for modern prototypes can reproduce this car's soul and character. Hence the soft non-symmetry of windscreen cross members has been left intact, as Touring uses techniques coherent with the age when the car was born.

## **The History of Touring Superleggera**

Touring Superleggera is recognized worldwide as one of the iconic names in Italian car design and coachbuilding. Founded by Felice Bianchi Anderloni and Gaetano Ponzoni in 1926, the company started to produce custom built automotive bodywork with two distinctive features from the very beginning: sporting elegance and lightness.

Early customers were reputed car makers as Isotta Fraschini and Alfa Romeo. It would mark the start of a flamboyant period, also culminating in the „Flying Star“ period with several spectacular spider coachworks.

Touring Superleggera also gradually researched the streamlining process. The marriage between this, and their Superleggera construction system using aluminium body panels over a light but rigid tubular steel frame, resulted in some extremely elegant masterpieces such as the 1938 Alfa Romeo 8C2900 Touring spider, which today have become icons of automotive design and body construction.

In 1945, the excellent Carlo Felice Bianchi Anderloni joined his father at the company, which soon started to receive its first orders from Enzo Ferrari. The Ferrari Tipo 166 Touring „Barchetta“ of 1950 formed a new milestone for light, elegant and effective design on a competition chassis.

Under Carlo Felice, Touring saw its industrial customer basis grow in the mainstream of the expanding automotive industry in Italy and Europe. A number of niche models were designed and built on Alfa Romeo 1900, Lancia Flaminia and Maserati 3500. Another new inspired car manufacturer from the Bologna area relied on Touring's skills: Lamborghini, that commissioned its first GT, the 350. In the same period Touring created another iconic automobile: the Aston Martin DB4, followed by the DB5 and 6, manufactured in Newport Pagnell with a license for the Superleggera bodywork system.



Since 2008, Carrozzeria Touring is an all-round supplier of automotive design, engineering and body manufacturing. Design services range from style research to CAS. Engineering activity features body engineering, CAD feasibility studies, FEM/FES analysis, CFD/aerodynamic analysis, virtual crash test.

The manufacturing department provides style models, show cars, rolling concepts, street legal one-offs and limited production series. Recent models include the Bellagio Fastback based on Maserati Quattroporte and the production ready two-seater Touring Berlinetta winner of the “Best Supercar of the Year” award in 2009.

They were followed by the acclaimed Bentley Continental Flying Star (2010), manufactured in the company premises in Milan with the endorsement of Bentley Motors, and the Gumpert Tornante by Touring (2011), a superfast Grand Tourer commissioned by the excellent German sports car manufacturer.

In 2012, Touring celebrated a true icon and masterpiece from its rich heritage. Just as 60 years before, when the C52 ‘Disco Volante’ prototype saw the light, Touring Superleggera was triggered by the potential of one of the finest Alfa Romeo sports chassis to design the innovative, breathtaking body of the Alfa Romeo Disco Volante.

After receiving the coveted Design Award for Concept Cars & Prototypes at Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este 2013, the Disco Volante is being built by hand in a limited run of up to eight units.

The company aims at perpetuating the core values of Touring design: purity, integrity, proportions, simplicity, resulting in timeless sporty elegance.

Design, manufacturing and restoration activities are run in the company premises nearby Milan.

Paris, Rétromobile, booth 1 S63

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