



TOURING SUPERLEGGERA RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION. 90 YEARS OF FORWARD-LOOKING ELEGANCE.

MILAN, 13th September 2016.

From the 22nd September to the 20th November Touring Superleggera celebrates its 90th birthday at the Turin based Museo Nazionale dell'Automobile "Avv. Giovanni Agnelli" (MAUTO).

The retrospective exhibition is a journey through time which projects the renowned Milanese designer and coachbuilder founded in 1926 by Felice Bianchi Anderloni and Gaetano Ponzoni into the future.

"There is no better venue to celebrate our first ninety years than MAUTO. Not only is it the most important national car museum in Italy, but Turin was the cradle and the industrial heart of the Italian car industry" Piero Mancardi, CEO of Touring Superleggera.

"We chose to showcase Touring Superleggera's design progress through a series of cars which we feel best represent our capability in adapting to the evolution of the automobile industry in rolling chassis, materials and production techniques, often allowing us to dictate new styles and trends ahead of their times." Louis de Fabribeckers, Head of Design.

The Turin retrospective tells a story of elegance, perfect proportions, purity and obsessive attention to detail, both through eleven unique motor cars – some of them one-of-a-kind - and through never-seen-before photos, interviews, original sketches and blueprints, scale models and production equipment.

A journey tracing the milestones in coach building history whilst projecting the visitor towards the future of the company which brought back the *fuoriserie* in the 21st century, allowing the knowledgeable collectors to fully express their taste through a uniquely designed car.

"MAUTO is pleased with having participated in the development of this exhibition which, following with the museum's guidelines and applying a tutorial approach, develops the theme of creativity and its evolution in car design. After the museum's World Design Section, we decided to tell this story of excellence and success in utilizing one's heritage as basis and stimulus for the future; a much loved theme in our museum" Rodolfo Gaffino Rossi, Director of MAUTO.

Ninety years in eleven cars.

Visitors to Touring Superleggera's 90 year retrospective in Turin, will be greeted by two iconic models: the **Lamborghini 350 GT** and the **Gumpert Tornante**.

Lamborghini 350 GT is the car which in 1963 allowed Ferruccio Lamborghini to enter the exclusive sports car manufacturer realm. Touring Superleggera developed an original design which moved away from the then current fashion, allowing the head lights to characterize the front end of the car rather than the radiator grille. The resulting model was extremely well balanced and elegant contributing to the success of this prestigious Granturismo and the newborn brand.

Gumpert Tornante is a 2011 project developed for the German sports car manufacturer Gumpert. The German company, specialized in extreme supercars, turned to Touring requesting a design for a two-seater coupe incorporating elegance, spaciousness and comfort whilst maintaining the car's extraordinary performance and dynamic qualities. The Tornante was never produced due to the issues which led to Gumpert's closing. It remains though Touring's first noteworthy design attempt on a mid-engine layout.

Following through, visitors will find 3 iconic models of their time. Firstly the **1956 Maserati 3500 GT** (a car delivering high performance thanks to the patented Superleggera lightweight production technique, which consisted in a very light steel tubing frame onto which aluminium panels were fitted). Secondly the **2008 Maserati A8GCS Berlinetta** concept (the first Touring Superleggera project since the company resumed activity, epitomising the lightweight, pure, nearly understated sports car concept, in defiance of the current trends).

Lastly the **Aston Martin DB5 Coupé**. Not everyone knows that HM's Secret Service agent 007's favourite car was designed in Milan by Touring. It was developed from the DB4 model, also designed in Milan. Production started at Touring in a few units in 1959, to be later moved to the Aston Martin factory under a Superleggera System licensing agreement. The tight cooperation with Aston Martin continued through to 1966 and the DB6, generating numerous body type variations, increases in cubic capacity and engine power.

Next is another concept car: the **2014 Mini Superleggera™ Vision**, a roadster developed in partnership with MINI to explore new design languages for the iconic British brand: on one hand agile, compact and minimalist, yet exciting lines, on the other hand a very modern and dynamic character thanks to its electric driveline.

Through the **Ferrari 166** and the **Alfa Romeo 6C 2500** the visitor returns to the golden era of Italian car manufacturing. The 1948 **166** began establishing the Ferrari legend. Felice Bianchi Anderloni, and then his son Carlo Felice, developed the revolutionary designs which contributed to Ferrari's success. The **Ferrari 166 MM** on display was originally owned by Gianni Agnelli who personally commissioned the lovely two-tone paintjob, the teardrop rear lights and the bonnet belts.

Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 SS was owed by Count Carlo Felice Trossi, a nobleman, renowned pilot and designer, who commissioned new bodywork from Touring,. It was to include both Alfa's new triangular grille, which would soon become its emblem, and twin headlamps, the internal pair being set higher than usual. The car was delivered with the new body in February 1946.

Based on the **Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 Super Sport** theme is the **Villa d'Este**. This car represents the peak of the design evolution which begun with the various pre-war Alfa Romeo 6C *berlinetta*. The car won, via a public vote, the 1949 Gran Premio Referendum at the Concorso d'Eleganza di Villa d'Este, and was given by public acclaim the "Villa d'Este" nickname. Also appearing in its final version on this car, placed in between the low horizontal air intakes, is Alfa's famous triangular grille, first designed by Touring in 1942, made compulsory by Alfa for every designer, and still today the company's emblem.

With the **BMW 328 Berlinetta Aerodinamica Touring** harvested the experience gained on aerodynamics to provide the Bavarian car manufacturer a competitive racecar aimed at Le Mans' fast straights. The body was developed at the Milan's Politecnico wind gallery, through extensive work on the cabin-boot junction. The result was astounding: at the 1939 24 Hours race the car won the 2 litre category and placed 5th overall. In 1940, having undergone just a few minor changes, the car vanquished the Mille Miglia race.

Lastly the **Alfa Romeo Disco Volante by Touring**, a two-seater coupe entirely hand built in Touring Superleggera's Milan workshop in just 8 units. The car is based on the Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione rolling chassis, chosen for its light yet rigid structure, and utilizes the car's original powertrain. The Disco Volante is the true essence of Italian *fuoriserie*: the perfect balance between design quality, sporting details and the pursuit of what is essential. It dictated the success of Touring Superleggera as producer of extraordinary tailor-made cars, helping to revive the traditional Italian coachbuilding heritage. The car is inspired by the 1952 Alfa Romeo C52, a futuristic design which sparked the public's imagination gaining it the Disco Volante nickname, Italian for 'Flying Saucer' The original C52 is exhibited in the Sports Cars Section of MAUTO.

The history of Touring Superleggera.

Touring Superleggera is recognized worldwide as one of the iconic names in Italian car design and coachbuilding. Founded in Milan in 1926 the company quickly became famous amongst the small world of international designers for both its activities: the “*fuoriserie*” bespoke bodyworks, and the design and construction of high performance bodyworks for all the major luxury car manufacturers such as Alfa Romeo, Isotta Fraschini, Bmw and Lancia. Production continued postwar with Aston Martin, Ferrari (for the majority of its production up until 1952), Lamborghini, Maserati and Pegaso.

The Superleggera patent, which allowed maximum weight reduction in the bodywork of extreme sport cars, allowed Touring to excel in competitions. The company’s prize list includes 11 overall victories in the Mille Miglia race, nine of which in consecutive years.

Amongst the more famous Touring designed models rank the 1931 Isotta Fraschini Flying Star, the 1949 Alfa Romeo 2500 Villa d’Este, the 1952 Alfa Romeo 1900 Sprint, the 1957 Maserati 3500 GT, the 1949 Ferrari 166 MM Barchetta, the 1958 Aston Martin DB4 and DB5, the first 1963 Lamborghini 350 GT, and the 1966 Lamborghini Flying Star II based on the 400 GTV mechanics.

In more recent history the brand was bought by a European group specialized in luxury car brands. This led to the development of the 2008 Maserati Bellagio, the 2009 A8GCS Berlinetta winner of “Best Supercar of the Year” award, and the 2010 Bentley Continental Flying Star.

In 2011 Touring Superleggera created the Tornante fast tourer, a design commissioned by Gumpert, a brand famous for its rigorous and perfect mechanics and its excellent performance. Touring also organized internally to allow an increase in production capabilities for the Bentley Continental Flying Star.

In 2012 Touring celebrated a masterpiece from its rich heritage, taking inspiration from the 1952 Alfa C52 Disco Volante. The groundbreaking and breathtaking Alfa Romeo Disco Volante 2012 was unveiled. Innovative lines dress the super-performing Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione chassis.

In 2013 Alfa Romeo Disco Volante by Touring debuted at the Geneva Motor Show and won the coveted Villa D’Este Concorso d’Eleganza “Design Award”. Further awards were won at the Pebble Beach and the St. James’s Concours.

In 2014 whilst the Alfa Romeo Disco Volante continued its winning streak at Chantilly, Touring Superleggera engaged in its first project with a UK icon. MINI and Touring Superleggera designed and built an elaborately crafted, unique concept car to explore new design languages for the iconic British brand. It was exhibited at Villa d’Este as BMW Group’s annual design statement. The MINI Superleggera™ Vision won “Best Concept Car of the Year” award both at Salon Privé and at the Paris Festival Automobile International. The Mini Superleggera™ Vision concept exemplifies the offerings Touring Superleggera has for car builders: the capability of merging creativity and flexibility with strict adherence to rigorous production standards.

In 2016 the Alfa Romeo Disco Volante Spyder was born, inspired by the 1952 Alfa Romeo C52. A two seater *fuoriserie* based on the Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione Spider chassis. After its unveiling at the 2016 Geneva Motor Show, the car won the Villa d’Este “Design Award for Concept Cars and Prototypes” and the Windsor Castle Concours “Spirit of Motoring Award”.

All current design and production takes place in the Terrazzano di Rho facility, just outside Milan.

From the 22nd of September to the 20th of November 2016

Museo Nazionale dell’Automobile “Avv. Giovanni Agnelli” (MAUTO)

*Corso Unità d’Italia 40
10126 Torino, Italy*

***Opening Times: Monday 10.00 - 14.00;
Tuesday 14.00 - 19.00;
Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday 10.00 - 19.00;
Friday and Saturday 10.00 - 21.00.***

Ticket Sales: at the museum’s entrance. Ticket price 12,00 euro, reduced price 8,00 euro

Embargo: *immediate*

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