Magneto

ISSUE 1
SPRING 2019

100 YEARS OF ZAGATO

+ ALFA 8C BERLINETTA TOURING | MCLAREN P1 VS SENNA | BRM V16 | CLASSIC TEAM LOTUS | 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

£ 8.00 | PRINTED IN THE UK
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THE 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE COLLECTOR CAR WORLD

There's so much happening, so many changes in our collector car world. These are some of the people driving those changes, from new styles of events, improving restoration standards to protection against government legislation and more. Some represent major organisations, others are going it alone. But every single one has an influence on the cars that we all love

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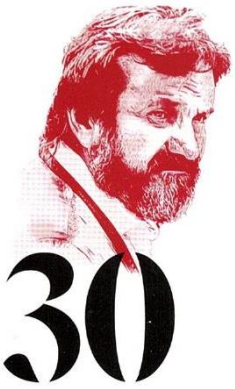

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ADOLFO ORSI

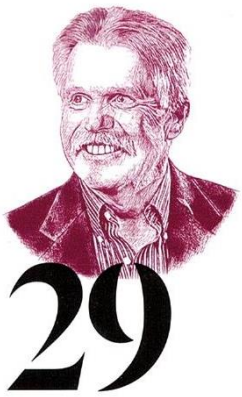
Concours judge and historian

NATIONALITY Italian

IS INFLUENTIAL BECAUSE...
As the grandson of Adolfo Orsi, who bought Maserati in 1937, and the son of Omar Orsi, who ran the Modena-based sports car maker until 1968, there's no doubting Adolfo Orsi Jr's credentials in the collector car market. But it's his unceasing work documenting auction trends and Maserati history, and his presence as a judge at almost every major concours in the world, that cements his place in this list of the most influential.

At the age of 17, Orsi is said to have recommended that Maserati call its new model the Indy – a suggestion that of course was accepted. But it wasn't long before the company was sold to Citroën, and the family's involvement with Maserati was over. However, by the mid-1980s, Adolfo Orsi Jr knew that he wanted to work in the collector car market, and began to organise auctions.

Orsi is a strong advocate of originality, and in 1999 he was instrumental in introducing the FIVA Award at Pebble Beach, for the best-maintained, unrestored car. He has been chief judge of the class ever since.



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WAYNE CARINI

Restorer and TV presenter

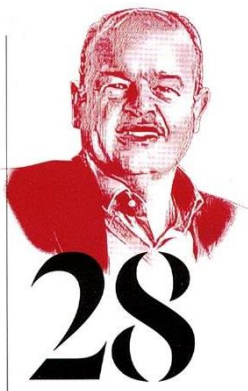
NATIONALITY American

IS INFLUENTIAL BECAUSE...
'Collector car archaeologist' Wayne Carini has rediscovered countless long-forgotten high-end automobiles stashed away in homes, garages and barns around the world. His TV show *Chasing Classic Cars* follows his exploits as he finds a car and negotiates to buy it, then resells it at auction or privately.

Along the way he talks shop with respected collectors, renovators and artisans – and as a master restorer himself, he knows his subject inside out.

What's really important here is Carini's influence on car enthusiasts who would perhaps otherwise avoid auctions. Through his TV exploits and his naturally approachable nature, Wayne Carini has opened up the mysteries of the car auction world and encouraged others to give it a go as well.

He's sold his famous barnfind Stutz to finance better accommodation for his autistic daughter Kimberly, but still keeps some special cars in his collection – including, currently, an SS100 under restoration.



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DAN GEOGHEGAN

Managing director, Bicester Heritage

NATIONALITY British

IS INFLUENTIAL BECAUSE...
Bicester Heritage wasn't the first classic car 'hub' – Classic Remise in Berlin and Düsseldorf, for example, have been around since 2003 and 2006 respectively, but it's unique in combining so many on-site classic car businesses (around 40 at the time of writing) with such an historic location and popular event destination. Dan Geoghegan, a Vintage car enthusiast and VSSC member, has extensive experience in property investment, but the Bicester Heritage development still seemed a huge risk.

The 348-acre site, a former RAF bomber base, had lain empty for decades, the 50-plus buildings were derelict and vandalised, with 19 subject to Grade II listing.

The site was bought for £3.4m in 2013, and the first ten businesses were in by early 2014. Dan has driven the project from the start, building a strong team around him. Now there are more buildings planned to satisfy demand, and a 344-room on-site hotel is on the way – but on top of that, Bicester Heritage has become a true destination, attracting more than 7000 visitors to its most recent event, the informal Sunday Scramble, even in freezing January weather. Amazing.

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PAUL RUSSELL

Restorer

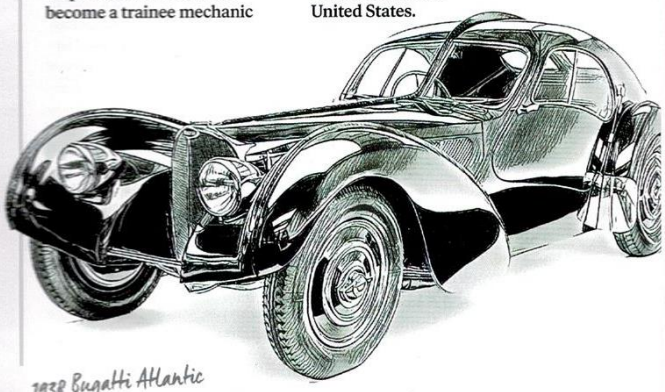
NATIONALITY American

IS INFLUENTIAL BECAUSE...
Restoration specialist Paul Russell and Company in Boston, USA, has more Pebble Beach concours Best of Show winners to its credit than any other company in the world, nearly 50 best of show awards at prestigious concours around the world, and Paul Russell himself is regarded as restoration house royalty. It's Paul Russell and Company that looks after Ralph Lauren's cars, for example, and many other world-leading collectors including Andreas Mohringer and Miles Collier make the company their first choice.

Paul's personal car interest was piqued at the age of 16 when a school friend started to bring round his Bugeye [or Frogeye to Brits] Sprite round to Paul's childhood home. Inspired, Paul went on to become a trainee mechanic in an independent Mercedes and Volkswagen workshop, and then moved onto a small 1950s Mercedes' specialist restoration company. When the owner decided to split the sales and restoration businesses in 1978, Paul took on the restoration side, and so created the Gullwing Service Company.

Arguably Paul's biggest break came after restoring a Mercedes for Ralph Lauren – by that point, Paul was already known for his expertise and high standards with 300SL Gullwings in particular – when he was asked to restore Lauren's Bugatti Atlantic. The success of that car led to more commissions, and the rest, as is so often said, is history.

Now Paul is heavily involved with the award-winning McPherson College, which offers the only accredited Bachelor's degree programme in automotive restoration in the United States.



1938 Bugatti Atlantic
Restored by Paul Russell