



"MODENA TERRA DI MOTORI" TAKES US BACK TO THE 'FIFTIES TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENNIAL OF CARMAKER STANGUELLINI

On the weekends of May 22 -23 and 29 - 30 Modena Terra di Motori, an event promoted by the Modena Chamber of Commerce and the City of Modena in collaboration with the Province and the Automobile Club of Modena, offers a packed calendar of events celebrating the prestigious Stanguellini name. The event, held for the eleventh time this year, centers around the first Stanguellini Memorial Rally, bringing to Modena dozens of cars designed by Vittorio Stanguellini, born a hundred years ago this year. For the occasion a section of what was once the Modena city race track will once again be used as a vintage race track, where Stanguellini cars will parade alongside other jewels of the past and a couple of Formula Uno Ferraris. The city center will be transformed into a big film set for the occasion, going back to the '50s and '60s to celebrate the great cars of the age.

Modena – Modena Terra di Motori, Italy's biggest annual outdoor event for automobile lovers for the past eleven years, will be back in a new format focusing primarily on a centennial of great importance for motoring fans: the birth of Vittorio Stanguellini, an outstanding racecar maker whose life story is emblematic of the land of the automobile.

Great dedication, outstanding technical ability, a childhood spent among cars (his father Francesco was one of Italy's first Fiat dealers and raced with his friend Vincenzo Lancia as a hobby), friendships with Enzo Ferrari and the Maserati brothers, early work on Tazio Nuvolari's cars: this is how he started his career in automobiles. When little more than a boy, Vittorio Stanguellini "jazzed up" a Balilla Sport to race his friends in the avenues of the park, leaving behind even an ultra-fast Alfa Romeo 1750. That was in the '30s, and it marked the beginning of an extraordinary career converting ordinary cars into racecars. After the war Stanguellini rose to fame all over Europe for his racecars: his workshop had ultra-modern equipment, and he often worked 24 hours a day to meet the demands of the racecar drivers and teams. In '46 Stanguellini's Fiats won the overall championship in the National Sport category. A year later the first car designed for use on the road left Stanguellini's workshops: an 1100 cc sedan with a Bertone hard-top sports car body. In 1955 Stanguellini made his first attempt at the great international trials such as the Le Mans 24 Hours, the Nürburgring 500 Km and the Belfast Tourist Trophy.

Requests for cars were flowing in from France and the US, along with orders from Britain for engines to be mounted on the British carmakers' own frames. But sports cars were on their way out.

Stanguellini was not discouraged, and in the late '50s he came up with a new trainer single-seater he called Junior: the first 1100 cc single-seater and the car that set the trend in its

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category. Thanks to its dependability and power, the car dominated the scene unrivalled for the first two Formula One seasons in Europe and America. The advice and testing of family friend Manuel Fangio was a precious aid. The Modena Juniors won about a hundred victories. Their supremacy was officially recognized in 1962 when ANCAI awarded Vittorio Stanguellini the World Trophy for Formula Junior makers. Stanguellini was truly at the top of the world of automobile racing in those days. The last racecar made by the great Modena manufacturer was a Formula 3, but the differences between manufacturers had become too great, especially in industrial and economic terms. Halfway through the '60s Vittorio abandoned automobile racing to work on sales and technical service in his workshop.

But he still had one unsatisfied desire: to participate in the Formula 1. He still had an unbuilt design for a Formula 1 car designed in 1961 in his desk drawer. The Modena carmaker's history will come back to life in Modena on Saturday May 29 and Sunday May 30, when dozens of cars will arrive from all over the world - collectors in Japan and the United States have registered to participate - to attend the first Vittorio Stanguellini Memorial Rally. This will be the first big rally and meeting for collectors of the cars made in Via Schedoni in Modena, open to vintage Formula Sport - Barchetta - Berlina Corsa cars made by Vittorio and his men between 1937 and 1966. The event is sure to be a must for fans all over the world.

Early in the afternoon of Sunday, May 30, the avenues of the city park where the Modena race track used to be located will bring back to life the emotions and splendor of the golden years of automobile racing. The stands will be rebuilt for the occasion so that fans can admire Stanguellini's racecars and other vintage treasures as they parade past to the music of their engines.

But the event will celebrate the present as well, with the participation of two new Ferrari Formula 1 vehicles driven by expert racing drivers.

The Stanguellini centennial has even more for fans: on May 23 an exhibition will open in the Stanguellini Museum featuring photos, videos, projects, automobiles and memorabilia of the adventures of the Modena automobile maker.

On the first weekend of the event, May 22 - 23, visitors to Modena Terra di Motori might be forgiven for believing they have ended up in some kind of time machine. The city center will be transformed into a huge film set reconstructing the life of the '50s and '60s with a specific focus on mobility in those days. The reconstruction will revive the spirit of a time when cars and motorbikes were a symbol of emancipation, when speed was synonymous with freedom. Vespas, Lambrettas, Post Office vehicles, Red Cross ambulances, American cars and the queens of the racetracks of the day will be showcased in this dive into the past with the participation of hundreds of people in costume, transforming the look of the whole town for a couple of days. The town's streets will become a big cinema for the occasion, showing films in

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which great actors of the past shared the set with cars and motorbikes like the splendid Aurelia B24 Vittorio Gassman drove in "The Easy Life" ("Il sorpasso") or the "Osso di seppia" Spider Duetto driven by Dustin Hoffman in "The Graduate".

The first weekend will also see about a hundred Ferraris invade Piazza Grande, with rallies of other great cars and local specialties on offer in the city's streets and squares, showing visitors that Modena offers excellence in food and wine as well as in racecars. The Automobile Club of Modena will unveil a brand new driving simulator and present the safe driving courses that have made it Italy's pioneering automobile club.

LARGE SELECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

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