

Isotta Fraschini stars at Spa Italia



Toby Lancia Fraschini
Sparto Zagato drives
striking looks

BEST OF SHOW at June's Spaitalia Italian car show went to Corrado Lopresto's 1931 Isotta Fraschini 8 ASS Torpedo Sport (above). Its elegant bodywork, by Italian Milanese coachbuilder Carrozzeria Castagna, dated ages and crowds alike. The new owners of Carrozzeria Castagna were due to be at the event but didn't turn up, though an estimated 6000 people did not the Belgian Spa-

Franchenchamps circuit over the weekend and were treated to a Concours d'Elegance, static marque displays, a rally and track tests featuring the new Fiat Abarth 500. The weather for the event was unusually kind, as Spaitalia's Pierre Rubens explains: 'Normally it rains in Spa and is sunny in all other parts of Belgium, but this year it was quite the opposite, which was

a welcome change.' Next year Spaitalia will celebrate 100 years of Alfa Romeo, and organisers are planning a special rally. 'We are inviting the Alfa Romeo clubs in the UK, Netherlands, Belgium, France and elsewhere to come to Spaitalia for a rally to the Fiat and Alfa Romeo test track at Balocco, where we will join up the Alfa Romeo celebrations,' says Rubens. For details, see www.spaitalia.be

Montreal proves to be Ace – for most

STEPHEN CHASE'S 1975 Alfa Romeo Montreal won the *Classic Cars* 'Car of the Night' award at June's Ace Cafe classic car meet. Sporting its original gold bodywork and tan leather interior, the car found time with everyone except Chase's wife Juliet, who said, 'I don't like the colour.' Chase has owned the Montreal for 15 years after swapping it for an Aston Martin V8 and says it's never missed a beat. Seeing the range of classics on display delighted everyone who went along. Other stand-out cars included Andy Jones' original low-mileage 1968 Ford Zephyr MkIV V6, Martin Houston's immaculate 1989 Lotus Excel SE and Frank Chaydon's Hilman Imp, which is off shortly for an epic 11,000-mile journey to compete



Stephen Chase's Alfa Montreal

in the Mongol Rally. You'll find the *Classic Cars* team at the Ace, in north London, every second Tuesday of the month. The next dates are August 11 and September 8. See you there! For directions, log on to www.ace-cafe-london.com



Ace boss Mark Wilmore (left) admires a Rover P5B Coupé

News In Brief

PORSCHE MUSEUM WELCOMES VISITOR NUMBER 250,000
Porsche's new museum welcomed its 250,000th visitor – Shinya Tachikawa from Tokyo – in June, only five months after opening. The old museum had 20 cars on display, compared to 80 now, and attracted just 80,000 visitors a year. It is open 9am-6pm, Tuesday to Sunday, and adult admission costs €5. For more details, see www.porsche.com/museum

ASTON'S RETURN TO REIMS FOR BEAUFORTAIN RUN

This year's Beaufortain Run will return to Reims as a stop-off (it was Paris in 2008) when entrants travel from England to Burgundy on November 16-20. The charity fund-raising event will commemorate the centenary of James Bond film producer Cubby Broccoli's birth, plus 150 years of wine maker Louis Jadot. Appropriately, Aston Martin Bond's film car of choice is the featured marque. For details, see www.beaufortainrun.com



MAKE NINE A DOUBLE!

A double-decker bus that doubles as a cocktail bar is now available to hire. The Deckerhouse Mobile Bar & Marquee is based on a 1967 Leyland P62 which used to ferry passengers around Manchester. To book, call 07815 693064 or see www.deckerhouse.co.uk

HEALEY'S GO BACK TO BONEVILLE

Meticulous re-creations of the Healey Endurance Car and 240hp, 192mph, supercharged Healey Streamliner will take to Boneville salt flats in Utah on September 16-19 in tribute to the 1954 record attempt by the Donald Healey Motor Company. The cars are built by Australian 1005 specialist Dave Pike and the team aims to match, but not exceed, Healey's records – rightly believing those records should always stand. For more details, log on to www.healeyreturntoboneville.com

ESCORT BLAYERS ON TEST

The August issue of our sister magazine *Practical Classics*, on sale now, pits the Mk1 Ford Escort Mexico against four of its (arguably) hotter rivals: Hillman Avenger; Tiger; BMW 2002i; Triumph Dolomite Sprint and Datsun 510 Bluebird SSS. No, really. Plus a 32-page essential garage-gear guide, and a beginner's guide to electrics.