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## 100 Years of the Targa Florio with RIAR

Having missed the Giro in Sicily due to date clashes, we set off a few weeks later for the International Rally of the Italian Historic Alfa Romeo Club (RIAR) to commemorate the centenary of the Targa Florio, arranged by the President of RIAR, Stefano d'Amico.

Trisha and Richard in their beautiful 1750 Zagato, John and I (Carolyn) in the Llewelyn Figoni bodied 1750 and Kirk and Alannah Rylands with the Pilks' TT Alfa en trailer due to the difficulties of hiring a car for the return journey and needing to leave the Alfas near Genoa for the Vernasca hillclimb. Leaving Château Pilson near Dijon to drive to Genoa, firstly the Pilks had distributor trouble, skilfully rectified in a shaded layby; then we had to make a quick detour to a French Doctor to make sure I didn't have appendicitis and then going over the Simplon Pass the Rylands Range Rover boiled and stopped in a tunnel. So they unloaded the TT car for Kirk to drive, cooled the R.R. which Alannah bravely drove in torrential rain to meet up at our overnight stop just in Italy. Next morning after a very hot drive to near Vernasca to leave the R.R. and trailer, the TT car now on the road but needing a push start every time it stopped due to a faulty battery, we finally found the dock in Genoa for the 23 hour crossing to Palermo. There were about 6 Alfas waiting at the quay, all much younger models than ours.

We met up the following evening in Palermo with the rest of the troupe, 23 Alfas in all, everyone Italian bar a couple of Finns who had driven from Helsinki in their 1973 GT 1600 Junior.

