

Now for the **BIG NEWS!!!!!!!!!! 22nd March 2014**

I'm sure you know about the Mille Miglia, that it was an open-road endurance race which took place in Italy twenty-four times from 1927 to 1957. Motoring enthusiast in Brescia (birthplace of Italian motorsport - the first appearance of a race car in the Brescian territory came about on March 14, 1899) were terribly miffed when officials moved the 1922 Italian Grand Prix race to a new Autodrome in Monza. Four enthusiasts conjured up something different; a race from Brescia to Rome, return – 1000 miles in the most picturesque of routes, all on public roads. The race attracted now famous marques (Triumph amongst them) and drivers alike, Fangio, von Tripp, Moss, Nuvolari.

The race was banned after two fatal crashes. The first was the crash of a 4.2-litre Ferrari 335 S in 1957 that took the lives of the Spanish driver Alfonso de Portago, his co-driver/navigator Edmund Nelson, and nine spectators, at the village of Guidizzolo. A second car crash in Brescia took the life of Joseph Göttinger. He was driving a Triumph TR3. This was not a race for the faint-hearted; from 1927 to 1957, the race took the lives of a total of 56 people.

Since 1977, the name was revived as the **Mille Miglia Storica**, a parade for pre-1957 cars that takes several days. One commentator said this, which sums it all: The Mille Miglia created our cars and the Italian auto industry. The birth place of the Grand touring cars (GT) which are made by most manufacturers (some in name only). The race proved that by racing over great distances, there were great technical lessons learnt by oil, brake clutch, transmission, and component manufacturers, fully justifying the old adage that “motor racing improves the breed”.

This year the race starts off on Thursday 15th May from Brescia in the evening, heading off south to Ferrara. Friday, they travel from Ferrara to Rome and then on Sunday 17th, drivers are faced with the long haul home back to Brescia. You are probably wondering about the significance of this article?

Well, only 375 vehicles are accepted worldwide. The cars are selected exclusively from the models that participated in at least one of the historical races between '27 to '57. And one of the entrants is a member of the **Triumph Sports car Club of South Africa**. That is Arthur Wassenaar and Amanda Di Nicola of Johannesburg, driving a Triumph TR3. The car fitted the criteria perfectly and it won't be long before Arthur will be on his way. Alan Grant has provided technical help to ensure the car is 100% fit for the road and I'm sure both personalities will provide further articles in due course. In the meantime let's collectively give Arthur and Mandy our full support. Good Luck! Mike.



TR3 somewhere in the Alps.
Courtesy of an image from the internet