

For Immediate Release
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CHRISTIE'S AT RÉTROMOBILE

Exceptional Motor Cars at Rétromobile Paris
Saturday 8 February 2003 at 7.30pm



Photo Credit: Simon Clay



Photo Credit: Maurice Louche

1959 Ferrari 250 GT TDF alloy competition berlinetta, ex-Abate/Balzarini, pictured here on the "Promenade des Anglais" in Nice during the 1959 edition of the Tour de France Automobile.
Estimate: €1,000,000-1,200,000

Paris – Christie's will motor into Paris on Saturday 8 February for their second sale of Exceptional Collectors Cars at Rétromobile, one of Europe's most prestigious events in the classic car calendar. The Christie's auction boasts many highly significant lots ranging from competition racing cars through to concept show models.

The sale is led by an historic 1959 Ferrari 250 GT Tour de France alloy competition berlinetta which has never been seen at auction before. Complete with an outstanding provenance, this motoring masterpiece is expected to fetch €1,000,000-1,200,000. Its impressive motoring history

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can be traced back to April 1959 when it was sold new to the Turin industrialist and later Ferrari works driver, Carlo M. Abate through to the present owner.

This Ferrari 250GT represents the ultimate development of the Tour de France model – these Ferrari berlinettas proved so successful that both the 1958 and 1959 editions of the Mille Miglia Rally were won by this model, the latter by this very car. Immediately after its successful international racing career, which included the GT class win in the 1960 Nürburgring 1,000km endurance race and numerous hill climbs such as the Mont Ventoux, it was brought to England in 1962 where it has been cherished by three fastidious owners ever since. In 1998, this immaculate machine added another accolade to an already illustrious history when it was honored for its patina and originality among the national concours winners at the Ferrari Owners Club of Great Britain.

Another undoubted highlight of the Paris sale is the superb 1932 Bugatti Type 55 Roadster from the estate of the important American collector and Bugatti enthusiast, Bill Serri Jnr. Launched in 1931 at the Paris Motor Show, the Type 55 Bugatti is unquestionably one of the most beautiful sports cars ever designed. One of only 38 models ever built, this pristine example makes a triumphant return to Paris after more than 70 years and carries an estimate of €900,000–€1,200,000.

Following Christie's hugely successful sale of the Ford Motor Company's collection of unique design prototypes in June this year, the motor car department is delighted to offer three full scale original Bugatti EB 110 concept show models. In order to revive the Bugatti name, a state-of-the-art factory was built in northern Italy in 1991. Very few design-prototype models after drawings by designer Marcello Gandini were ever built; hence each of these three rare examples is expected to realize €60,000–120,000.

This sale will also feature a notable automobilia section including two lots formerly the property of the famous Belgian racing driver Jacky Ickx, a six time Le Mans winner and former F1 driver. Ickx's helmet and competitor's medal from his 1977 victory in the French 24H Le Mans race is estimated at €3,000–5,000 while his helmet, medal, full race suit, shoes and gloves from his last victory at the Sarthe circuit in 1982, may realize up to €10,000.

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Note to Editors: The sale will take place at – Salon Rétromobile, Porte de Versailles, 75015 Paris
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