

Best of Italy Race



'Veni, Vidi, Vici' **Second Successful Edition of Best of Italy Race Supercar Festival**

Exclusive public run of the Giannini 350GP
180 supercar drivers 'raced' alongside motorsport legends like David Piper and Harri Toivonen
Giacomo Agostini and Stefano Bonetti led a supercharged grid of 50 Italian superbikes

Motorsport legends and the most iconic Italian supercars and superbikes gathered together for this weekend's **Best of Italy Race** (16/17 September), celebrating Italian design, technology and craftsmanship, in the heart of Emilia-Romagna, Motor Valley.

From the new **ATS GT** hypercar, Italdesign's **Zerouno** and the **Giannini 350 GP**, the most powerful Fiat 500 to date, to the **Mazzanti Evantra** and **Millecavalli** prototype driven by Luca Mazzanti, Lamborghini Miura and original Ferrari 250 Testarossa, which picked up the 'Stand Out Classic' award, the Best of Italy Race paddock was a monument to mouth-watering Italian metal.

The legendary **'Steady Special' 1934 Lancia Astura**, fresh from a £400,000 restoration, was fired up for the very first time in over 60 years, contrasting with the record-breaking **Lamborghini Huracan Performante**, the holder of the fastest production car lap time at the notorious Nurburgring, driven by **Massimiliano Venturi**, Lamborghini test driver and now holder of the BOIR 'Exceptional Driver' award.

Other icons gracing this adrenaline-fuelled event included former Formula 1 and sportscar racing driver David Piper with his famous green Ferrari 250 LM, who was awarded the Pirelli special prize; and the Lancia Delta S4 037 from rallying's golden era, driven by the equally iconic Harri Toivonen, paying homage to his late brother Henri, with co-driver Francesco Buffi, founder of the World Rally Museum. Joe Macari drove his Maserati MC12 which he had last piloted at Le Mans.

Giacomo Agostini, the multi-time motorcycle grand prix World Champion who competed in the inaugural 2016 event, returned for this year's BOIR motorcycle event, riding the eponymous **MV Agusta F3 800 AGO**, facing friendly competition from the TT-winning **lightweight Paton S1R**, ridden by Paton team rider **Stefano Bonetti** and making its first public appearance since tasting success at the notorious Isle of Man race earlier this year.

Uniquely, 180 supercar owners and over 60 superbike riders 'raced' alongside these legends of motorsport across the non-competitive course, leading from the historic castle town of Castell'Arquato to the hilltop village of Morfasso, which featured a challenging hill climb and a superfast 200m 'drag' section.

Other exotic machinery lining up on the BOIR grid included an attention-grabbing Tecno F2 single-seater race car, the Bugatti EB110, the Ducati 1299 Panigale S and Multistrada Pikes Peak and 'wild card' MG Metro 6R4 Group B rally car. They were flanked by an impressive array of models from the greatest Italian marques: Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, Alfa Romeo, Lancia, Abarth, Ducati, Aprilia and Moto Guzzi.

Hertz were on site with their **Italian Collection** – offering day hire of the 4C or Stelvio as well as courtesy transport for guests.

The Best of Italy Race also cast a spotlight on Italians' passion for - and success in - road race cycling, with two events featuring amateur and professional cyclists tackling the same challenging 26km Best of Italy course: the Trofeo Criterium Italia 2017 fixed wheel race and the 'Giancarlo Perini challenge' for geared bikes which was contested by Perini himself and double-Olympic medal winning cyclist **Marc Ryan**, although the top spots were taken by world champion track cyclist Benjamin Thomas of the Tred team, who set a new Best of Italy record time of 36'30", followed by Ashley Dennis of Team Wiggins and Italian pro-cyclist Filippo Baggio.

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Away from the track, Castell'Arquato's Piazza Europa was transformed into a sea of red with a celebratory display of Ferraris to honour the marque's 70th anniversary, providing a backdrop for a stunning **Riva Super Florida yacht**, the Best of Italy on water!

On Saturday evening drivers and riders and their guests enjoyed a celebratory cocktail party at the historic Rocca Viscontea fortress in Castell'Arquato, which featured an exhibition of works from contemporary artists including royal academician Eduardo Paolozzi and creator of Faurism Patrick Faure-Spinetta, music from opera singer Fernando Messulam and a fashion display by the Milanese tailor Sanvenero. Naturally, the finest Italian food and wine was showcased with a variety of regional dishes prepared by leading chef **Cristian Broglia** and prosecco and a special cocktails served by Casa Martini.

In just its second year, the Best of Italy Race has been endorsed by Motor Valley and ACI Sport, the governing body for Italian motorsport, which has included the event on its official calendar from 2017, and enjoys the support of leading Italian brands, such as Pirelli, Pakelo, Italdesign, Lamborghini, Martini, Maserati, Mazzanti, Musetti, Passoni and Riva who are involved with BOIR.

The Best of Italy Race is the brainchild of Race Director Enzo Scalzo: "The Race is a true 'festa di vitessa' celebrating the passion, style, technology and design integrity of Italian industry against the stunning backdrop of the Emilia Romagna countryside.

We are delighted to have once again enjoyed a fantastic weekend of legendary machines and sporting idols alongside good food, fine hospitality and the best of Italian culture – truly demonstrating how much excellence is produced by just one country in so many fields."

For further information and to keep updated please visit: www.bestofitalyrace.com or follow BOIR:

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184 cars took part in the Best of Italy Race 2017.

Highlights include:

Maserati MC12 GT1 – driven by Joe Macari
Italdesign Zerouno
ATS GT presented by Emmanuel Bomboi
Giannini 350GP
Mazzanti Evantra
Mazzanti Millecavalli - driven by Luca Mazzanti
Ferrari 458 GT3 – Joe Macari
Ferrari 488 GT3 – AF Corsa
Ferrari 308 Group B Rally
Ferrari LaFerrari
Ferrari Enzo
Ferrari F12
Ferrari F40
Ferrari 458 Speciale
Lola Formula 3000 – Fastest Car Winner at 201 km/h
Lamborghini Huracan Performante – driven by Massimiliano Venturi
Lamborghini Aventador S
Lamborghini Aventador SV
Lamborghini Diablo GT
Lamborghini Miura
Polizia Stradale / Lamborghini Huracan
Bugatti EB110 GT
Maserati MC Stradale – driven by Jodie Kidd
Maserati Super Monoposto – driven by Max Wakefield
Lancia Beta Montecarlo Endurance
Lancia LC1 Endurance
Lancia LC2 Endurance
Lancia Delta S4 – driven by Harri Toivonen
Lancia Rally 037
Lancia Stratos
Metro 6R4 (BOIR Wild Card)
Ford GT40 (BOIR Wild Card) – driven Filippo Perini
Tecno F2
Ferrari 250 LM – driven by David Piper
Ferrari 250 Testarossa
Lamborghini Urraco 3000 – driven by Fabio Lamborghini
“Steady Special” 1934 Lancia Astura