

Alfa Romeo Honours R.I.A.R. with Special Mi.To

14 Jan 2009 - Alfa Romeo is honouring the 46-year history and brand loyalty of Registro Italiano Alfa Romeo (R.I.A.R.) by presenting the MiTo RIAR, a concept Alfa Romeo embraced thanks to Andrea Vecchi, a member of both Alfa Romeo marketing and the association. This new car will be produced in a limited and exclusive special edition (only 46 numbered pieces, individually manufactured and fitted) reserved for the first 46 RIAR members who will succeed in securing one for themselves.

Painted black (Nero Cattivo or Nero Etna), with matching headlight and rear-light rims, 17" forged wheels, dark, and identical to those sported by the 8C Competizione. Red brake calipers. 170 bhp from the 1.4 turbo instead of the standard 155 bhp. Full optional black or burgundy leather interiors, spoiler above the rear window, rear bumper air dam, sporty interiors and seats, carbon look dashboard, fog lights, digitally controlled two-zone automatic air conditioning, parking sensors, EURO 5 engine. Metal RIAR logo on the tailgate and steering wheel. Production number and Member's name engraved on a silver plate on the shift tunnel. It comes with an authenticity certificate and RIAR homologation. Members will benefit from special conditions: although not inexpensive, the price for these exclusive limited-edition vehicles, equipped with every optional and a generous horse power, has been fixed at 20,000 euros.

Registro Italiano Alfa Romeo (R.I.A.R.)

R.I.A.R. (Registro Italiano Alfa Romeo) is a non-profit association founded in Rome in 1962 by Francesco Santovetti, who was a pioneer of historical motor racing in Italy who also served as the club's first President. Acknowledging the merit and brand image potential of the association, in 1968 Alfa Romeo relocated R.I.A.R. to Milan in its then headquarters on Via Gattamelata.

With a new office in Arese (MI) within the Museo Storico Alfa Romeo, today R.I.A.R. boasts over 700 members all around the world, including respected museums showcasing rare discontinued Alfa Romeo models. From vintage cars dating back to the

1910s and 20s to the most recent Formula 1 race cars that saw the light of day in the '80s, all R.I.A.R. members take great pride in the preservation of the originality and excellence of their outstanding vehicles. These are the cars that wrote Alfa history and turned it into legend, cars made to stir passion and strong emotions anywhere, anytime.

R.I.A.R. is a travelling museum offering every year meetings and events that bring together countless members and Alfa enthusiasts both in Italy and abroad. From the classy luxurious sedans of the 20s to the fiery sports cars of the 30s - the same that shared the triumphs of unforgettable drivers like Nuvolari and Varzi - from the majesty and speed of the vehicles produced in the 40s and 50s, to the svelte Giulietta design, every event retraces almost 100 years of Italian life and customs and almost 100 years of stylistic and technological innovation by one of the most captivating car-makers on the planet.

A glance at the unmistakable contour of these cars shaped by the best coach-builders of all times reveals why, in spite of their limited number, they escaped neglect and destruction and are now priced at the high end of the antique car market. Each car has a unique story and interesting anecdotes to tell. An English member proudly shows off the gold plate on the dashboard of his roaring 1932 8C 2300: 'Tazio Nuvolari was here'.

Another fiery red 6C 1750 GS in pristine condition still travels with the registration book of its original owner: cav. Benito Mussolini, Palazzo Venezia Ñ Roma. A small black sedan, built by Garavini in 1928, belonged to the famous Italian poet Gabriele d'Annunzio. E.N.I registered with R.I.A.R the grey 1960 Giulietta its late president Enrico Mattei personally drove. The elegant 1938 6C 2300 with an ultralight and aerodynamic body provided by Touring is a sleek black cloud that won two Mille Miglia races with illustrious drivers. The original and amazing condition in which these and many other Alfas were preserved is a tribute to the bravery and audacity of their drivers.

(Source: Italia Speed)