

## NOTIZIE

250 GTO  
ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
EVERY 5 YEARS -  
SOMETHING  
SPECIAL



*250 GTOs converge on Italy for the 55th Anniversary Tour, here staged evocatively at Villa Cora in Florence.*

### 250 GTOS RETURN HOME REPORTS ON SCENE FROM YOUR STAFF

#### GTO 55TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR - A SNAPSHOT BY KEITH BLUEMEL

This 250 GTO 55th Anniversary Tour was organized by Ferrari, and took place between 25th and 30th September 2017, primarily in beautiful Tuscany, with the event base at the splendid five star Villa Cora hotel in central Florence, in its own parkland overlooking the Boboli Gardens. It is just a couple of kilometers south of the famous Ponte Vecchio, and if walking to the bridge over the River Arno from the hotel one passed the Forte di Belvedere, where the L'Ida Ferrari exhibition was held in

1990. (See Cavallino issue 58.) Based from the host hotel, the participants had visits to local vineyards, drives on part of the original Mugello road circuit, laps of the current Mugello circuit, and a free day for shopping and sightseeing in the beautiful city of Florence.

On the final day of the tour, the snake of GTOs headed northwards using part of the famed Mille Miglia route over the Futa and Raticosa passes, with a coffee stop at the latter, before heading into Emilia Romagna and on to the finale at the Ferrari factory in Maranello. Upon arrival, they drove through the Museo Ferrari parking area, where large crowds had assembled to witness their passing, before entering the Fiorano track, where they did three laps as an end to the driving part of the tour. The event ended with a gala dinner in the Ferrari Classiche workshop on the Friday evening.



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### FERRARI 250 GTO ANNIVERSARY TOUR A TOUR THAT HAS NEVER BECOME STALE

#### GTO 55TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR - A SNAPSHOT BY ANDREAS BIRNER

"Ferrari 250 GTO 55th Anniversary" - this was the official name of the super-exclusive event hosted by the Ferrari factory for the 250 GTO owners, from Florence to Maranello, between September 25th and 30th, 2017.

The 250 GTO tours have a long tradition: Since 1982, a gathering of the world's probably most valuable cars had been organized every five years. The idea for these super-exclusive reunions had initially been born by Jess G. Pourret, a former 250 GTO owner and author of the *Ferrari 250 GT Competition* book, Peter G. Sachs, 250 GTO owner, and Jean Berchon, heir of the Moët & Chandon champagne dynasty in France.

This time, for the 55th anniversary of the 250 GTO that had been launched in 1962, the factory took over as host of the meeting for the very first time. The organization of the tour had been outsourced to Canossa Events, an agency based in Reggio Emilia, Italy, specializing in classic car rallies and exclusive automotive events. For reasons of security and privacy of the owners, the event had been successfully kept extremely secret and only a very few people on the globe who did not own a 250 GTO knew anything about it. Eventually eighteen owners wired the 15,000 € fee to enroll for the tour, and they were rewarded with a perfectly organized event and splendid weather.

The Villa Cora, a five star plus hotel in Florence, had been chosen as the event hotel, located in the picturesque hills overlooking the city. The entire hotel had been blocked for the participants and the staff to ensure the highest possible level of privacy. Since the majority of all 250 GTOs are located in the USA, numerous examples needed to make their way over the big pond and had arrived in their native Italy a couple of



*The 55th Anniversary Tour became an occasion for the locals to celebrate their heritage. Here s/n 3809 GT passes a Renaissance display.*

days earlier, while most of their owners arrived in private jets on Monday, September 25th.

The event started with a dinner in the Villa Cora on Monday, followed by two days of driving on the curvy roads of Tuscany's beautiful scenery, and always guided and guarded by police officers and private security on motorbikes! On Tuesday, the GTO owners roamed the Chianti region south of Florence which is so famous for its red wine. The lunch stop was held at the Antica Marcelleria Cecchini in Panzano, a famous place to eat "Fiorentina", the Tuscan version of the T-bone steak. On Wednesday, the tour's first stop was the Autodromo Internazionale del Mugello, the famous Tuscan circuit owned by Ferrari, where the participants did a number of free laps at the speed of their choice.

The tour continued via the route of the now almost forgotten Mugello Grand Prix, a race held on public roads between 1914 and 1970 and about 38 miles long. Some of the road sections had been closed for normal traffic as special stages

for the 250 GTO teams. The luncheon was held in a monastery along the route.

Thursday was a free day to enable the GTO ladies to do some shopping in Florence. Furthermore, Ferrari had brought their entire current range of cars to the Villa Cora, which were available for test drives.

On Friday, the group left Florence and took the old Mille Miglia route to Maranello, including the Futa and Raticosa mountain passes. In Maranello, the GTO owners had the possibility to do a couple of laps on the Fiorano circuit prior to parking their cars in the old yard of the factory where the Ferrari Classiche department was ready for inspection. The event was concluded with a black tie dinner at the factory.

In five years, the 250 GTO will turn sixty, and it will be time for the next 250 GTO tour!