

1952 ASTON MARTIN DB2 DROPHEAD COUPE

Born from the post-war ambition that reshaped Aston Martin, this DB2 represents a moment when British engineering and continental artistry converged without compromise.

In 1947, wealthy industrialist David Brown purchased Aston Martin, rescuing the marque from the economic aftershocks of war. He subsequently acquired Lagonda, primarily for its advanced 2.6-litre straight-six engine designed by W.O. Bentley. While Aston Martin's first post-war model struggled to attract only 14 buyers, installing the Lagonda engine in an Aston chassis produced a winning combination. And the 'DB' era started.

The Aston Martin DB2 made its debut in 1950. The company was then still small enough to indulge individual taste, so you could order a DB2 as a rolling chassis from the factory in Feltham, west of London and dispatch it to one of Europe's finest coachbuilders to add the final flourish.

The car in front of you is one of just three DB2 chassis sent to Wichtrach, Switzerland for bodying by Carrosserie Graber, and the only known survivor. Hermann Graber's work was celebrated for its elegance, precision and quality, costing considerably more than British-bodied equivalents.

The Graber-bodied DB2 differed significantly from the standard Aston Martin outer design. The typical 'clamshell' bonnet was abandoned in favour of a more conventional engine opening, while an integrated boot added luggage capacity. Rear seating, concealed beneath a tonneau when not required, further enhanced practicality. Construction also diverged: aluminium was used at the front, steel at the rear – an unapologetically expensive blend of lightness and solidity.

Sold new in Zurich in 1952, the car spent decades in Switzerland, including a prolonged period of barn storage, before being restored and returned to the road in 1993. Later upgrades saw the addition of a 140bhp 'works' specification engine.

Following concours successes in Hong Kong, the car claimed the 2025 Club Trophy, awarded by the Royal Automobile Club, at the Hampton Court Concours of Elegance – a fitting accolade for this singular Swiss-tailored Aston Martin.