

# 1923 ALFA ROMEO RL TARGA FLORIO

Here is one of the most important racing cars in Alfa Romeo's early history, with a glorious connection to a youthful Enzo Ferrari.

When restoration began on the car, it was suspected that it was a significant example, but only once work was well underway was it discovered that here was chassis No 01, the prototype of the RL model that first saw the light of day in 1921.

It was completed only by April 1922, albeit with earlier bodywork, and was then entrusted to factory team driver Ugo Sivocci to race in the gruelling round-Sicily Targa Florio road race, where unfortunately it failed to finish. Yet back for the 1923 season and now with the latest RL TF 23 body style, it was this time allocated to another driver: one Enzo Ferrari, then aged 25.

The four, otherwise-all-new RL TF 23 cars built by Alfa Romeo for 1923 (with different starting handles) were allocated to Ascari, Campari, Sivocci and Masetti. At the Targa Florio that year, Sivocci won and Ascari finished second, although Ferrari's car, now team car now renumbered 05, disappointingly did not even start. Nonetheless, this was still Alfa's first major international success.

Period photographs show Ferrari at the wheel of this distinctive car, with its unusual starting handle position. Ferrari competed in it at Mugello on 10 June 1923, and had then finally enjoyed his first race win one week later at Savio.

It was also at Savio that the 'Cavalino Rampante' shield was bequeathed to Enzo Ferrari by the Baracca family – following the death of their flying-ace son Francesco – to 'give him luck' in future. Enzo went on to use this famous and evocative emblem featuring a black horse on a yellow Modena background on his own Scuderia Ferrari team of Alfa Romeo race cars, and then on all the cars built under his own name, on which of course the talisman became world-famous. It is also the first car to have carried Alfa Romeo's four-leafed green clover symbol.

The bodywork has been faithfully recreated by Jim Stokes Workshops Group.

## Brief Technical Specification

Engine: straight-six cylinder, 2994cc

Top speed: 100mph approx

Maximum power: 90bhp+

Price when new: not sold to the public

On display Tuesday 14 July to Monday 27 July.