

1967 FERRARI 330 GTC

The 330 GTC occupies a fascinating place in Ferrari's history.

When Ferrari discontinued the 250 GT Lusso in 1964, it was left without an intermediate model between the competition-inspired 275 GTB and the spacious, four-seater 330 GT 2+2. Launched at the Geneva motor show in March 1966, the 330 GTC was the company's answer: a medley of the marque's greatest '60s ingredients, distilled into a grand tourer.

The 330 GTC shared the steering, suspension and transmission of the 275 GTB, while its wheelbase was 10 inches shorter than the 2+2. Its elegant shape was unmistakably the work of Pininfarina while, inside, the rear seats were replaced by a luggage shelf, creating a true GT with an added measure of practicality. Performance was its most thrilling feature though, with Ferrari's fierce, Gioacchino Colombo-designed V12 engine capable of 300 brake-horsepower, 0-60 mph in under seven seconds and a top speed of around 150 mph.

Only around 600 coupés were produced, among them being the very car in front of you.

Leaving Maranello in November 1967, this car was finished in Nocciola Metallizzato, a warm metallic brown, paired with a beige interior. Remarkably, more than 55 years later, both remain original, displaying only the gentle patina of a life carefully enjoyed, rather than being cocooned in a collection. The car retains its original tools, handbooks and even both sets of keys – wonderfully tangible links to 1967.

Its entire life has been spent in Southern California, mostly in Manhattan Beach, where it was owned for decades by Robert Hicks; reportedly, he acquired the Ferrari at the urging of his friend, race driver Phil Hill. Now owned by Tony Owen, it remains in the South Bay, apart from its visit here to Pall Mall – and we can only imagine how spectacular that original, shimmering paint looks beneath the Californian sun.

Brief Technical Specification

Engine: V12-cylinder, 3967cc

Top speed: 152 mph

Price when new: £6,156

Maximum power: 300 bhp

On display Tuesday 8 September to Monday 21 September.

For more information, please see the cabinet outside the library on the first floor.