

1965 FERRARI 275 GTS

This Pininfarina-styled two-seater is one of the most sought-after open Ferraris of the 1960s, prized today by marque enthusiasts and collectors, and coveted by everyone else.

Only 200 examples of the 275 GTS were built over an 18-month period, and this one – heading for auction at RM Sotheby's London sale on 31 October at the Peninsula London, a short walk from here – is the seventh made from 19 right-hand-drive cars. It is much, much rarer than the 275 GTB closed version, and a very differently proportioned car, with uncovered headlamps, triple-louvred wings, a tapered tail, and Borrani wire wheels as standard. Construction is in steel with aluminium doors, bonnet and boot lid.

Underneath this unique skin, though, the 275 GTS bears identical mechanical components to the performance-orientated 275 GTB, including a rear transaxle that minimises weight and optimises distribution of mass. The power unit is the magnificent 60-deg V12 designed by Ferrari's engine maestro Gioacchino Colombo, a 3.3-litre unit producing a scintillating 260bhp at 7,000 rpm. It's a beautifully balanced roadster to drive fast.

The car here was supplied new by the Maranello factory in Rosso Cina red paintwork with beige leather upholstery, a classic pairing that has been proudly retained to this day through its full restoration. Chassis number 07293, it was certified by Ferrari Classiche in April 2010 and is accompanied at auction with its all-important Red Book.

Brief Technical Specification

Engine: V12-cylinder, 3285cc

Top speed: 150 mph

Maximum power: 260 bhp

Price when new: £4,900

On display Tuesday 6 October to Monday 12 October.