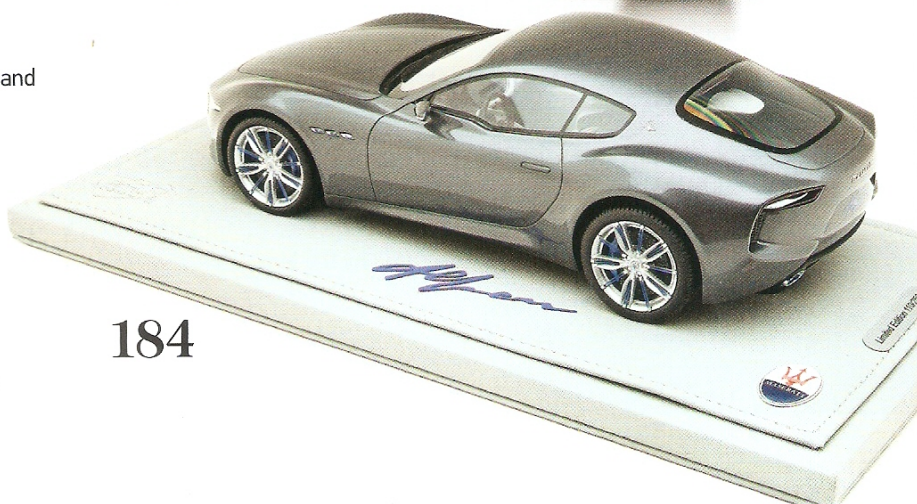


# CONTENTS

OCTOBER 2015 // ISSUE 148

## REGULARS

- 20 NEWS**  
Latest on DVLA and historic registrations
- 28 EVENTS AND DIARY**  
Reports from Britain, Europe and beyond
- 44 NEW CAR NEWS**  
Audi R8, McLaren and Lotus supercars tested
- 53 JAY LENO**  
Getting to grips with a pioneering hot rod
- 55 DEREK BELL**  
The endurance legend tackles Shelsley Walsh
- 57 STEPHEN BAYLEY**  
On the importance of wheels in proportion
- 58 ROBERT COUCHER**  
Astons are great – but aren't they overpriced?
- 60 GEARBOX**  
Racer and TV commentator Tim Harvey
- 62 PASSED IT! TONY DRON**  
The enduring appeal of endurance racing
- 64 LETTERS**  
Peter Stevens recalls African trip in a WW2 Jeep
- 172 GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**  
Racer and entrepreneur Terence Delaney
- 174 ICON**  
Double bogie: the Garratt steam locomotive
- 176 WATCH**  
Breguet plunders its exquisite back-catalogue
- 178 AUTOMOBILIA**  
Let's all play Stirling Moss: the board game...
- 180 BOOKS, PRODUCTS, MODELS**  
Read them, use them, just look at them
- 188 SUBSCRIBER OFFERS**  
*Octane* on your doormat, free gift in your hand
- 190 OCTANE CARS**  
Daily lives of the staff and their wheels
- 200 CHEQUERED FLAG**  
The racing month in pictures – and more
- 207 THE MARKET**  
The pulse of the classic car world
- 306 DAY IN THE LIFE**  
Gyrocopter pilot and instructor Clive Rose





## LAGO D'ISEO CLASSIC SPEEDBOAT TOUR

# Making waves, elegantly

*Classic speedboats enjoy perfect weather and a memorable event*

Words and photography James Nicholls

**THE WATERS OF LAKE ISEO** are deep and cool and clear. It is the fourth largest of the lakes in the Italian Lake District, and offers breathtaking scenery. What better place for the ASDEC, the Italian association for old boats, to hold its annual international meeting for vintage and classic motorboats.

Participants from across Europe and as far afield as Chile and Australia gathered with their beautiful craft at the town of Lovere, one of the prettiest in Italy. It is also home to one of the largest inland marinas in Europe. It was here that the Chris-Craft, Riva, Colombo, Boesch, San Marco and other beautiful boats were launched and moored.

The first morning shone bright and the surface of the lake was as still as glass. The classic fleet departed towards the southern part of the lake, navigating along its western shores, and with the water seemingly to itself. First port of call was the Bellini boatyard in Clusane, where the participants were able to view the owner's marvellous collection of Riva boats. Lunch in the surrounding hills and a visit to a local vineyard were followed by a high-speed run across the lake back to Lovere, in time for a beautiful dinner in the old town.

The weather the following day again provided perfect boating conditions, with warm sunshine and no wind. Amongst the tantalising fleet of classic speedboats were a Riva Super Florida and the incredibly rare 1964 San Marco runabout, powered by a Maserati Tipo 106 racing engine. A true one of a kind, the San Marco propelled Mario Bernocchi to the 1964



European speedboat championship and is capable of 57mph – it had no trouble outstripping the flotilla before arcing back in a wide sweeping turn to rejoin the other boats.

Once again the destination was the Nautica Bellini, this time along the eastern coast of the lake and including a circumnavigation of Monte Isola, the largest lake island in southern and central Europe, along the way. After mooring at Bellini we transferred to the remarkable steamboat, La Capitanio. Launched in 1926, La Capitanio is a piece of floating history, but it was to ferry us to an even more famous boating location in Sarnico.

The Cantiere Riva di Sarnico has existed on the shores of Lake Iseo in some form since the mid-19th Century. But it was with the arrival of the genius Carlo Riva that for a glorious period of 25 years from around 1950 Riva became the darling of the jet set. Elegant and iconic, to own or even drive a Riva is to be transported back to the halcyon days of *La Dolce Vita*. For a boat lover to have a private tour of the Riva factory is akin to a nirvanic experience.

La Capitanio then dropped us back to our own craft, after which the return journey to Lovere was fast and furious. At dinner that night all the talk was of the magnificence of the event.

**From top**  
Participants at this absurdly photogenic meeting of classic boats were tempted off the glassy waters of Lake Iseo to tour the Bellini boatyard and Riva HQ; the latter was reached aboard the 1926 steamer La Capitanio, cruising around the island of Monte Isola.

25-28 JUNE  
Lago d'Iseo,  
Lombardy,  
Italy

