

Classic Meets Contemporary at Boat Show Motoring Display

At the 2010 Gibraltar International Boat Show (8 – 11 April) cars from the Gibraltar Classic Vehicle Association (GCVA) are going to get up close and personal with a fleet of Mercedes-Benz fresh from the production line. This faceoff between classic and contemporary is sure to attract motor enthusiasts from every corner of the Rock and across the border into Spain.

Starting at the top of the tree, Mercedes distributor Gedime Motors Ltd, will be showcasing the S-Class flagship - the S63 AMG - which will require you to write out a cheque for more than £110,000 if you want to drive it off into the sunset. As you'd expect from Mercedes' performance subsidiary, AMG has enhanced the exterior with a more aggressive grille, LED driving lights and stunning 19-inch multi-spoke alloys. But the real performance lies under the bonnet with a monster 6.2 litre V8 allowing the S63 to reach 62mph in 4.6 seconds. Impressive for a two tonne beast.

Moving towards more palatable price brackets the new E-Class Coupe, starting from little under £30,000, will also be on display at the Show. This classy cruiser which replaces the CLK is handsomely styled with pillarless windows that give passengers open views. Mercedes-Benz has also worked tirelessly to reduce fuel consumption, by up to 17%, and CO2 emissions are competitive – especially across diesel models.

If we're talking 'green', the Smart Fortwo cabriolet is not only a dream for affordable (in the region of £10,000) open-top city driving but also a friend to the environment. Micro Hybrid Drive (mhd) technology is a brilliantly simple fuel-saving idea that automatically cuts the engine at traffic lights or in a traffic jam, and then seamlessly sparks back to life in first gear when things get moving. The Smart Fortwo mhds save up to 29% in fuel in urban settings and have vastly reduced Co2 emissions. Genius.

Turn the clock back a few decades and the vehicles in the GCVA would have been the technological geniuses of their era. From a vintage 1925 Morris Cowley with its signature bullnose radiator to a 1986 Guy Salmon Jubilee Special Jaguar XJS convertible (one of only three ever built), the GCVA will have more than a dozen models on display – all lovingly maintained by their owners.

Since establishment in 2001, the GCVA now counts 36 members who own over 45 classic cars between them as well as a growing group of associate members who do not own a car

but have an interest in classics and of course take part in all club activities from the annual Christmas dinner to informal barbecues.

A typical year would see up to ten events organized from local cavalcades to runs across the border up to Ronda or Sanlucar de Barrameda – often with an overnight stay. Seldom is there a mechanical breakdown on these jaunts – testament to the care lavished on these rarefied specimens. The annual GCVA Rally is always a highlight attracting vehicles from Spain, Portugal and even as far as the UK and Ireland. Beginning with a showcase at Casemates Square, the cars then parade up Main Street before the drivers settle down for a long lunch at Ocean Village.

Attendant at the 2010 Gibraltar International Boat Show in Ocean Village will be some popular models. From a 1956 Morris JB commercial van previously seen on the streets of Britain as a milk float or post office delivery van to a classic 1976 BMW 1502 (something of a collector's item as it was sold only in Europe from 1975 to 1977). Plus a beautiful 1966 Jaguar Mk2, the car of choice for Inspector Morse, and a whimsical Triumph Herald from the same year. The GCVA are even throwing in a Harley Davidson for motorcycle enthusiasts, a 1938 model produced as the company battled its way out of the Great Depression.

For further information from Gedime Motors - Mercedes-Benz contact Keith Martinez on info@mercedes-benz.gi or telephone 00 350 200 45888.

The GCVA can be contacted via Secretary Howard Danino on 00 350 200 74657 or Public Relations Officer John Ritchie on 00 350 200 78823 email gibclassic@gibtelcom.net

For further information on the 2010 Gibraltar International Boat Show contact sales@gibraltarboatshow.com, telephone 00 44 1392 811 520 or visit www.gibraltarboatshow.com.

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