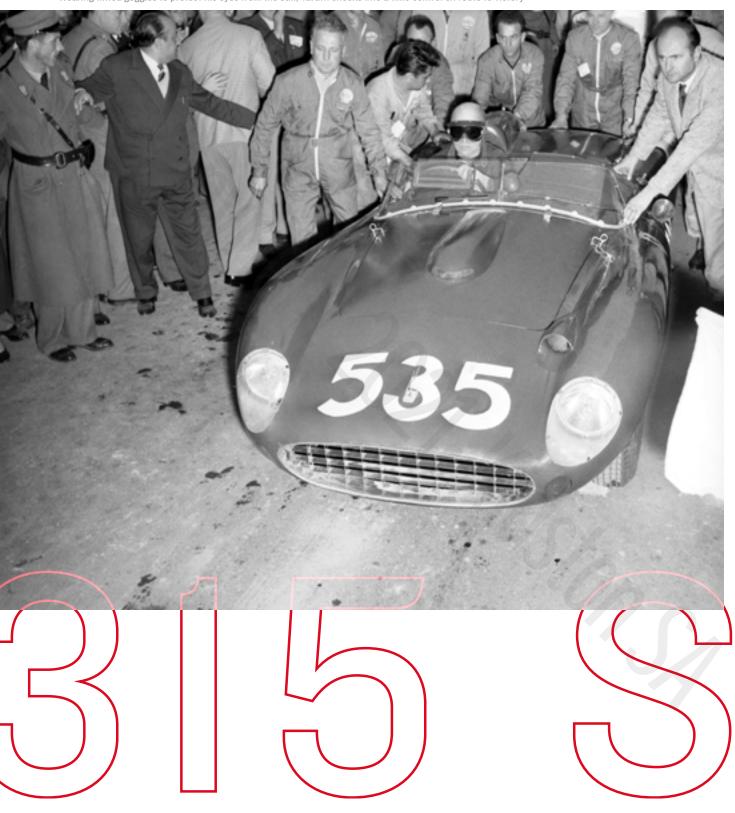


Ex-Scuderia Ferrari/Piero Taruffi, 1st overall XXIV Mille Miglia 1957 FERRARI 315 S





Wearing tinted goggles to protect his eyes from the sun, Taruffi checks into a time control en route to victory



The last-ever Mille Miglia was more than just the end of the greatest and most beautiful road race, it was the conclusion of an era for a country so passionate about motor sport.

ITALIAN GREATS ALFA ROMEO AND LANCIA HAD WITHDRAWN FROM TOP-LINE MOTOR RACING. WITH ITS MAGNIFICENT 450S, MASERATI PRODUCED THE FASTEST CAR OF 1957 BUT, ALMOST BANKRUPT, LEFT MOTOR RACING FOR GOOD AT THE CLOSE OF IT. THE OLD PRE-WAR WARRIORS HAD MOSTLY RETIRED, AND THE COUNTRY WAS STILL MOURNING THE DEATH OF BRILLIANT YOUNG STAR EUGENIO CASTELLOTTI AT THE WHEEL OF A GRAND PRIX FERRARI ONLY WEEKS BEFORE CARS ROLLED OFF THE STARTING RAMP IN BRESCIA.



The scene before 998 miles and IO hours 27 minutes of the hardest driving: the famous Mille Miglia starting ramp









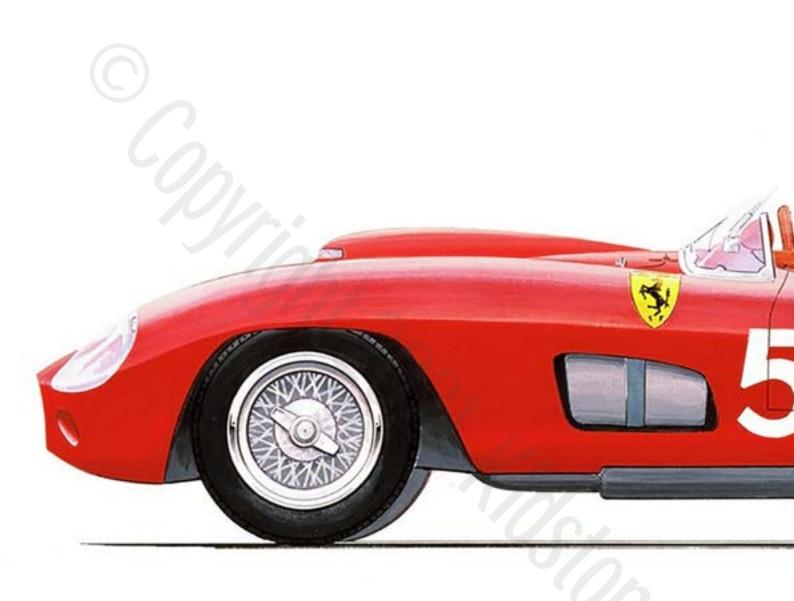
The word was out that the sport's ruling body would outlaw I80mph unlimited capacity sports cars, even with the full-width screens made mandatory after the disaster at Le Mans in 1955.

Ferrari, the man and the company, had seen it all before. Mindful of the potential of the Maserati 450S, for I957 his designers came up with the most potent machines the company had ever made. All had four-cam, six-carburettor, twin-spark engines with outputs unequalled for nearly a decade.

Four open sports cars from Maranello boasting a total of I,500bhp arrived in Brescia mid-May I957. They were joined by a ferociously fast 250 GT racing *berlinetta*, a portent of things to come.

After 998 miles of the hardest racing in sunshine and rain, one man was victorious and he was at the wheel of this motor car. After so many near-misses, finally, 50-year-old Piero Taruffi won the Mille Miglia driving single-handed for IO hours 27 minutes, often reaching speeds in excess of I70mph.

The Mille Miglia was no more, but a legend was born.





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THE FERRARI 315 S

Ferrari returned to its VI2 roots in I956 after a brief spell of four- and six-cylinder cars. Veteran engineer Vittorio Jano, gifted to the Scuderia with the Lancia D50 racing cars, created the *Tipo* I30 S engine for the 290 MM, a single-camshaft-per-bank, 3,490cc VI2 with three, quadruple-choke Webers producing 320bhp.

The 290 MM raced throughout 1956, Castellotti driving one solo to victory on the Mille Miglia, while the four-cylinder 860 Monza still proved an effective racing car and Maserati's 300S – driven by Moss and Behra, in particular – was a constant thorn in the side of the Scuderia. Champions Hawthorn and Fangio favoured the big 860 Monza, and it was this car, backing up the rocket ship 290 MM, that gave Ferrari domination over arch-rival Maserati who revealed the dramatic 450S in practice at the last round that year, the Swedish Grand Prix, a race won by Trintignant/Hill in a 290 MM.

For I957, then, with the prospect of 400bhp Maserati 450Ss driven by Moss, Behra and Fangio, Ferrari needed to raise its game. The result was the exotic four-cam 290 S, 315 S and 335 S racing cars carrying the most powerful and advanced VI2s yet seen at Maranello, each unit a visual delight with 24 plug leads, four coils, six twin-throat Solex C40 PII carburettors, four camshafts and two distributors. This most exotic VI2 was coupled to a four-speed transaxle. The new *Tipo* I40 engine was installed in a robust *Tipo* 520 multi-tubular frame and clothed in typical racing spider bodywork by Scaglietti: wide (to accommodate the massive engine), low and utterly seductive. To meet the regulations a full-width, but minimumheight, Perspex screen was fitted. Ferrari continued with drum brakes and the cars ran on wide, alloy-rim Borrani spoked wheels.

The first round of the I957 World Championship was the Buenos Aires I000km. Ferrari entered two new 3.5-litre, 330bhp 290 Ss but both retired leaving victory to a two-cam 290 MM driven by Gregory/de Portago.

This was the only race for the 290 S as for the next round at Sebring Ferrari debuted the 3I5 S. With a capacity of 3,783cc (achieved by boring out to 76mm) the new motor produced 360bhp at 7,800rpm in an otherwise identical car. The two 3I5 Ss were piloted by Collins/Trintignant and De Portago/Musso, but finished a disappointing sixth and seventh, victory going to Maserati.

Mid-May in Northern Italy meant only one event: the Mille Miglia. With the likely prospect of it being the last-ever running of the dangerous race, and the threat posed by Moss/Jenkinson in a 400bhp Maserati, Ferrari introduced its largest and most powerful four-cam yet – the *Tipo* I4I motor, bored and stroked to 4,023cc and now pushing out 390bhp. These new cars carried the name 335 S. Beating Moss on the road was the aim, and the prospect of besting his 97.98mph overall average from I955 in a Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR was a very real one with such potent cars and skilled drivers.

The Scuderia lined up as follows:

- Race no. 531 De Portago/Nelson, Ferrari 335 S
- Race no. 532 Von Trips, Ferrari 315 S
- Race no. 534 Collins/Klemantaski, Ferrari 335 S
- Race no. 535 Taruffi, Ferrari 315 S
- Race no. 4I7 Gendebien/Wascher, Ferrari 250 GT Berlinetta

The entry was limited to 'just' 350 cars that year due to safety concerns. Maserati's challenge was halved on the eve of the race when Jean Behra collided with a lorry in a late practice session, his car was ruined and the fiery Frenchman badly injured. Moss and Jenkinson lasted just I2km outside Brescia when the brake pedal sheared while the brilliant driver was taking a corner at I45mph...





Taruffi receives a celebratory kiss from his wife Isabella. A lifetime ambition achieved, he retired from motor racing on the spot. Newly appointed Ferrari team manager Romolo Tavoni (glasses) looks on

So it was inevitable that a Ferrari would take the flag some I,000 miles after the start, but which one? At Siena, after I,101km, Collins was in front and had broken Moss's 300 SLR average. At Bologna after traversing the passes he had a lead of 10 minutes over the vastly experienced Taruffi, who was driving solo thanks to his intimate knowledge of the route. Von Trips was third. All the sports-racing Ferraris were suffering from transmission troubles and Collins retired at Parma, just 227km from the finishing line. All the while, Gendebien was thrashing the experimental 250 GT *berlinetta* mercilessly, putting up times equal to or faster than the prototypes, particularly when rain came later that day.

At the finish, the artful 'Silver Fox' stroked his 315 S, chassis 0684 bearing race number 535, over the line,

three minutes ahead of Von Trips at an average speed of 94.86mph.Gendebien was an incredible third, only five minutes further behind. Disastrously, with the chequered flag almost in sight, De Portago and Nelson's 335 S left the road at a speed approaching I75mph. The ensuing accident killed both instantly and took the lives of nine spectators including five children. It was the death knell of the Mille Miglia.

Tragedy notwithstanding, the teams regrouped two weeks for the Nürburgring I,000km. On the twisting Eifel circuit Tony Brooks' Aston Martin DBRI was uncatchable and Collins/Gendebien in a 335 S finished second with the 315 S of Hawthorn/Trintignant third.



At Le Mans, Ferrari's main opposition was the Jaguar D-type, a model that had won in 1955 and 1956. With just enough power from a 3.4-litre engine, superb aerodynamics and disc brakes, it more than made up for the disparity in outright bhp compared with the four-cam Ferraris, three of which were entered by Maranello. Two 335 S sports-racers went to Hawthorn/Musso and Collins/Hill, while Englishman Stuart Lewis-Evans was paired with factory tester Martino Severi (some sources suggest Gendebien also drove the car) in the Mille-Miglia-winning 315 S chassis 0684. Maserati was in some disarray with an oddball 450S low-drag berlinetta by Zagato and an open car. Neither lasted long.

Come the race, Hawthorn was searingly fast in his 335 S, setting a 200km/h+ lap record that lasted until 1962. Collins also ran at a punishing pace. Thanks to this sort of treatment, neither of the bigger-engined four-cams from Maranello stayed the course, and a brilliantly run race by Lewis-Evans and Severi saw the Anglo-Italian pair finish an honourable fifth in their 315 S behind four D-types.

Two championship events remained on the I957 calendar and the Scuderia decided to concentrate on its 335 Ss backed up by the new 250 Testa Rossa, thus gaining invaluable track time ahead of a tilt at the championship run to new 3.0-litre regulations in I958. Maserati won in Sweden, Ferrari in Venezuela, and in so doing scooped the I957 World Championship.

The era of the magnificent four-cam Ferrari sports car was over on the world stage, though it carried on in big-capacity, money-no-object racing in North America, where the final version of the *Tipo* I4I in the 4I2 MI produced 4I2bhp.

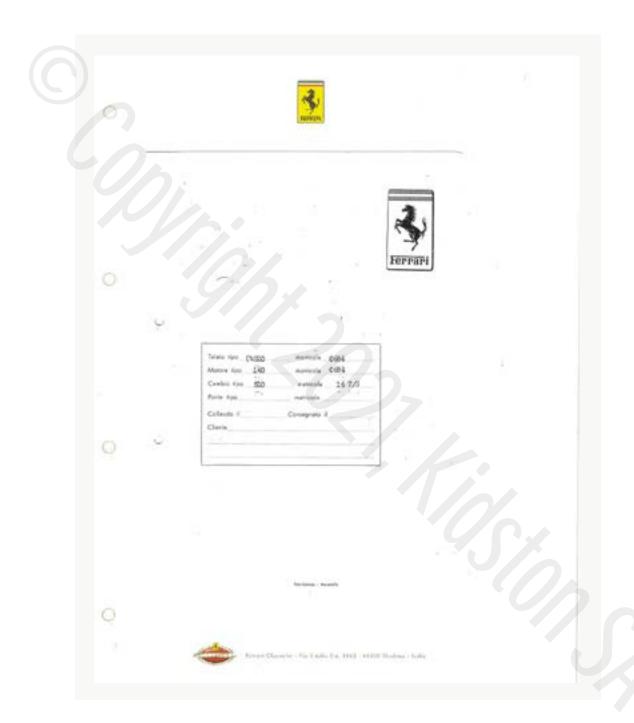
The 315 S was part of that legend, winning the most famous and romantic race in the world for the last-ever time and finishing respectably over 24 hard-fought hours at Le Mans.

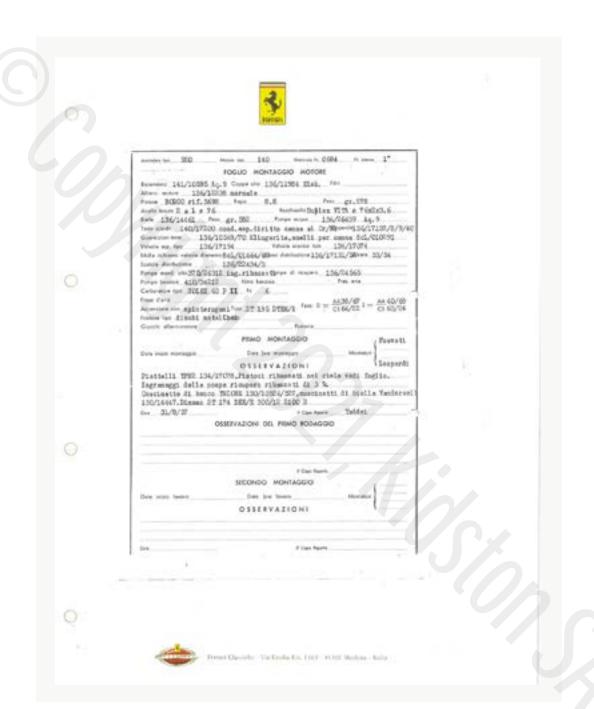




Top: An atmospheric shot of a typical US race meeting in the 1950s. Chassis 0684 is in the middle of the third row Bottom: Gene Greenspun in '0684' sits on the front of the grid at Bridgehampton during an SCCA National race in September 1957

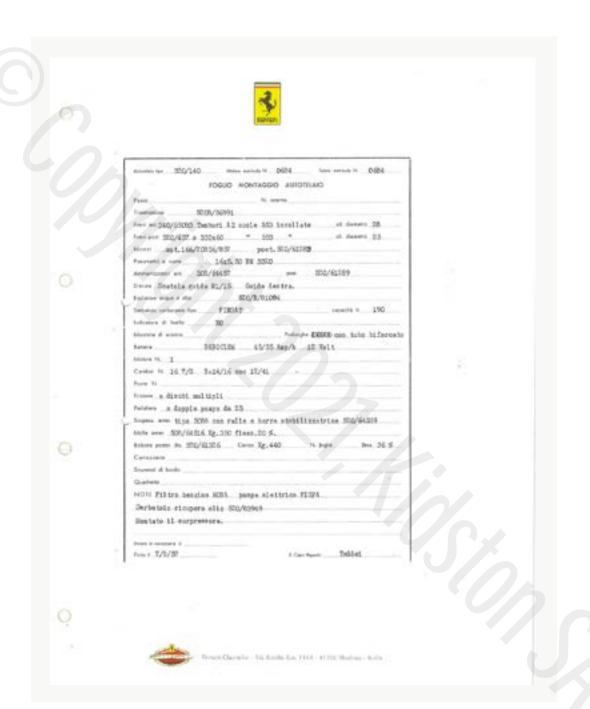
Factory Build Sheets





Factory Build Sheets





THIS MOTOR CAR

CHASSIS NO. 0684 ENGINE NO. 0684

Ferrari 315 S chassis 0684 was prepared for the May 1957 Mille Miglia. The copy of the factory build sheet that accompanies the car is not completed until 7 September 1957, prior to its sale in the US via Luigi Chinetti Motors that month. Considering the non-stop nature of the European racing season, this apparent delay in the case of a factory-run car is not unusual.

The car's 3.8-litre engine (it was never swapped for a 4.0-litre) bore six Solex carburettors and was also stamped 0684, the mark it bears today. The *Tipo* 520/422 four-speed transaxle was similarly marked.

Piero Taruffi drove '0684' to victory in the Mille Miglia having practised in 315 S '0656', the Hawthorn/
Trintignant Nürburgring car. In the race, the car bore start number 535 and temporary cardboard Bologna license plate 'BO 8107I'. Following De Portago's fatal accident, the race winner and the other surviving works sports-racing car were temporarily impounded by the Italian authorities but released in time for Le Mans.

On 2 June 1957 the car was inspected in Modena by ACI/CSAI engineer Vittorio Fano to confirm its eligibility for the French 24-hour race, where it finished fifth overall driven by Lewis-Evans/Severi.

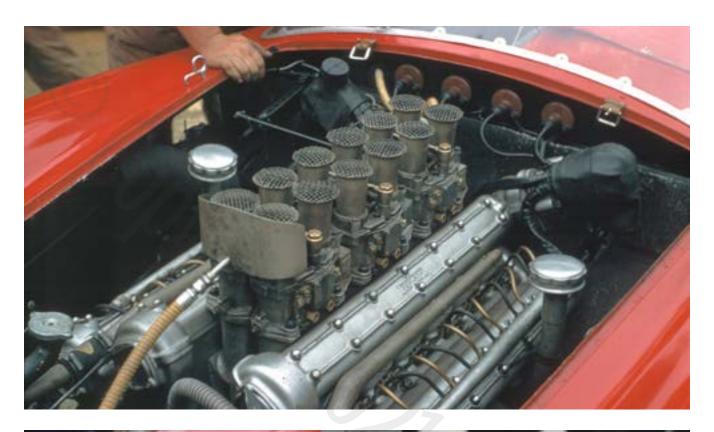
In September that year Chinetti Motors sold '0684' to William 'Gene' Greenspun of New York City who paid \$32,000. He had previously owned a 250 MM Vignale Spider. Greenspun immediately entered probably

the best American driver of the day, Phil Hill, in the car for the 8 September 1957 Road America 500 at Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Hill beat the country's second-ranking driver Carroll Shelby in John Edgar's Maserati 300S by 2min 44sec to take the winning flag.

Greenspun himself drove it a few more times including outings at the December 1957 Bahamas Speed Weeks before selling it back to Chinetti in January 1958. Edward Gelder of Bridgeport, Ohio, became the next owner paying Chinetti \$12,000 for something the New York Ferrari distributor described as "too much a powerful car" for Greenspun to drive.

In Gelder's hands '0684' was placed in some low-key SCCA events and made the trip to Nassau again in December 1960. By then, the Ohia man was interested in selling, advertising it for \$8,500 but finally settling on an offer of \$3,500 on 7 August 1964 from his long-term mechanic Al Allin, who owned the car until April 1980. In a letter addressed to potential suitors for the powerful Ferrari dated 4 May 1979, Allin, of Grand Haven, Michigan, confirmed:

- "Yes, I will part with the machine for an arrangement that suits me."
- "Yes, I will consider certain trades in p/x."
- "The above questions will be discussed by phone or in person only."





Two shots from Le Mans 1957 show the impressive engine of the big four-cam Ferrari racing cars and the view from the cockpit. The extra aero screen could be carefully adjusted to suit different drivers' preferences





He goes on to relate that on purchase he dismantled the car with the intention of racing it in I965. This never happened, so all parts including the body now stripped of paint but still mounted on the chassis, were carefully put into storage. The letter confirms '0684' "has never suffered any damage. The suspension has never been damaged. There were no makeshift repairs on parts excepting the pistons and the brake drum liners."

Allin then notes: "The body has not been modified and is the only 315/335 S with the original body shape as first constructed in 1957... the fuel tank and oil tank are perfect... the radiator and twin oil cooler radiators are as new. The disassembled parts were, and still are, all carefully packaged and oiled for storage. The chassis is clean and covered. All parts and the chassis/body have always been stored in a heated, dry and sheltered area."

In short, a time-warp factory-run Ferrari sports car from the I950s, one of only a handful not crashed or modified in no-holds-barred West Coast racing. On I7 April I980 '0684' passed to Darryl G Greenmayer of Reno, Nevada, who kept it for four years before selling it to noted Ferrari enthusiast Albert Obrist of Gstaad, Switzerland, whose collection numbered the greatest Ferraris ever built. In Obrist's care, from I985 to I986 '0684' was completely restored by Carrozzeria Fantuzzi of Modena, Italy.

At the disposal of the Obrist collection in the early 1990s the car was offered at \$7.5m and passed with many other of his superlative Ferraris to Formula I supremo Bernie Ecclestone. Two years later the current North American owner bought '0684' from Ecclestone. It joined one of the world's finest collections of the very best post-War cars.

During his ownership the car was meticulously restored in 2001-2002 to its May 1957 configuration including iconic race number 535. On completion, an entry at Pebble Beach in August 2002 won it first in class. It has since been exhibited at Ferrari's 60th at Maranello where it again won its class.



Of the three cars raced by the Scuderia with 3.8-litre, 315 S engines, chassis 0684 is the sole example never modified or upgraded, always carrying its original motor and full Scaglietti 'envelope' bodywork. To summarise:

- I. Chassis 0656. Originally a 290 S at Buenos Aires in January 1957, upgraded to 315 S for the May Nürburgring race and later repaired by the factory with pontoon fenders when raced in the US. Currently carrying a correct 315 S reproduction body from 1980s restoration.
- 2. Chassis 0674. Originally a 1956 290 MM renumbered and re-engined as a 315 S for Sebring 1957. In June 1957 re-engined as a 335 S for Hawthorn/Lusso at Le Mans. Converted to pontoon fender bodywork by the factory for the Venezuela GP in 1957, later converted back to correct Scaglietti 335 S configuration.

3. Chassis 0684. Built new as a 315 S, raced twice as such by the factory and only briefly in period in the US without modification before long-term storage and careful restoration in the modern era.

Immensely powerful, and with seductive and aggressive competition bodywork by Sergio Scaglietti, Ferrari 3I5 S '0684', the car that won the last-ever Mille Miglia, remains one of the most original, significant and desirable Ferraris in existence.

"HIS RACE WAS A MASTERPIECE OF DRIVING, TACTICS AND EXPERIENCE AND EVERYBODY WAS PARTICULARLY HAPPY THAT FORTUNE HAD FINALLY SMILED ON TARUFFI AFTER DISRESPECTFULLY TURNING HER BACK ON HIM SO MANY TIMES.

"HE HAD ALREADY PROMISED HIS WIFE, ISABELLA, THAT HE WOULD GIVE UP HIS SPORTING CAREER IF HE WON THE MILLE MIGLIA. HE KEPT HIS WORD."

Count Giovanni 'Johnny' Lurani describes how veteran driver Piero Taruffi finally won the Mille Miglia on his 13th attempt.



The Ferrari team before the 1957 Mille Miglia. Gendebien leans on his 'hot rod' 250 GT Berlinetta, De Portago adjusts his camera gaining Peter Collins' – with hat, who drove with famous photographer Louis Klemantaski – attention. Car 535, chassis 0684, is in the background



