



MARREYT
classic cars



Alfa Romeo 1900 CSS Touring Serie II

1954

Gallery

"La Macchina di Famiglia che Vince le Corse", the family car that wins races, that's how Alfa Romeo promoted the 1900 after its multiple successes in the Targa Florio, Mille Miglia, Giro d'Italia, Tour de France and Carrera Panamericana, to name just a few. Being the successor to the legendary 6C 2500 is not an easy job, but by combining spaciousness with quick and sporty behaviour, the 1900 surely set the tone for the Alfa Romeos to come. It also introduced the typical vertical grille flanked by horizontal air intakes which would characterize all consecutive models until the late 1970's. The 1900 also meant the return of Alfa Romeo to 4-cylinder engines, but this time in the twin-cam layout made famous by its 6C and 8C predecessors. The 1900's chassis and the shorter 1900C variant were specifically designed to be rebodied by coachbuilders. Many small series were produced by the great designers of Italy, and Alfa Romeo even engaged Touring to build the sporty 1900C Sprint Coupé. Using their renowned Superleggera construction, the Milanese coachbuilder manufactured 1465 Coupés on the 1900C basis between 1951 and 1958, spread over three series. This second series 1900C Super Sprint five window Coupé was delivered new in California, where the warm and dry climate provided the best possible conditions a car could dream of. In the 1990's, it was fully restored by its third owner, who could start his restoration from an accident free and very sound basis. The body was brought to the bare metal and resprayed in a striking two-tone Azzurro-Verde Metalizzato with a Blu Cobalto roof. All mechanicals were entirely overhauled, including the five-speed gearbox that in the meantime been modified from column shift to floor shift. A lot of effort was spent to get all the details right, down to the upholstery, the carpets, the chrome and nickel plating, and of the course the beautiful Borrani wire wheels. "Concours restoration" is an overused term, but when a car is invited to the Pebble Beach Concours (1999) and wins 1st and 2nd price at the Palo Alto Concours (2001 & 2002), then it surely isn't an overstatement and the car has barely aged since then, proving the very high quality of the restoration! In those same years, the car has also driven the California Mille, and today it is itching to be driven in the historical recreations of the races that once made the 1900 the most competitive family car of its day!

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