

Porsche Teens

THE 911 R PAVED THE WAY FOR THE RS 2.7 AND DEMONSTRATED ITS POTENTIAL ON THE BIG STAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING A DRAMATIC RECORD-BREAKING DRIVE IN MONZA. DRAWN BY TOBIAS PÄHLKE.

THE LEGENDARY AUTODROMO NAZIONALE DI MONZA! A CHILDHOOD DREAM COMES TRUE. CAN YOU SMELL THE TRADITION? IT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST INFAMOUS COURSES SINCE 1922. NIKI LAUDA WON HERE IN A MCLAREN WITH A PORSCHE ENGINE IN 1984 ...

YOU'RE A REAL PORSCHE FAN, DAD! IT'S A SHAME THERE AREN'T ANY RACES TODAY.

BUT MAYBE WE CAN SEE THE PIT LANE. I'LL ASK THAT MAN OVER THERE.

HELLO, I'M BEN. DO YOU WORK HERE?

BUON GIORNO! I'M GIO. NO, NO. I USED TO WORK HERE. LOOOONG TIME AGO. BUT I STOP BY ON OCCASION. THE CARS, THE SMELL ... I JUST CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT 'EM!

REALLY? WHAT DID YOU DO HERE?

COME ON! FIRST I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE I WORKED.

WOW, THE PIT LANE! TELL US, GIO. WHAT DID YOU DO HERE?

I WAS A MECHANIC. ALWAYS IN MOTORSPORT, MY WHOLE LIFE. YOUR DAD WILL PROBABLY REMEMBER THE LEGENDARY RACES HERE. I WAS HERE FOR THOSE. BUT THE BEST THING I EXPERIENCED HERE WASN'T EVEN A RACE.

YOU'RE NOT TELLING US YOU WERE HERE IN 1967 ...

... BUT I WAS! WHEN PORSCHE ATTEMPTED TO BREAK THE RECORD!

PORSCHE? WHAT A COINCIDENCE. DAD DRIVES A TAYCAN!

TELL US, WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

I REMEMBER AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY. IT WAS OCTOBER 1967. I WAS IN MY EARLY TWENTIES AND SUDDENLY WE RECEIVED THE MESSAGE THAT PORSCHE WOULD ATTEMPT TO BREAK A SPEED RECORD HERE. WITH A CARRERA 6. WE GOT READY RIGHT AWAY. BUT WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ... MAMMA MIA!

WHAT HAPPENED?

WE HAD FOUR DAYS AND FOUR NIGHTS, AND THE CARRERA KEPT RACING. BUT THE SHOCK ABSORBER PISTON ROD BROKE AFTER TWELVE HOURS. THEN THE SECOND ONE, THEN THE THIRD. ALL OF THE POTHOLES ON THE COURSE WERE TOO MUCH FOR THE RACE CAR, AND WE ONLY HAD 48 HOURS LEFT.

AND THEN?

Porsche Taycan models (sports sedan)
 Electrical consumption combined:
 27.0–25.4 kWh/100 km
 CO₂ emissions combined: 0 g/km
 Effective: 07/2022

Comic

THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY MEETING AT THE HEADQUARTERS ...

... AND THE CARRERA 6 WAS REPLACED.

THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS REPLACED WITH TWO 911 R MODELS STILL PARKED AT THE TEST WORKSHOP. BUT TRANSPORTING THEM BY TRUCK WOULD'VE TAKEN TOO LONG. SO THEY WERE DRIVEN HERE. JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, A SECOND FIFTH GEAR WAS INSTALLED, AND OFF THEY WENT. ONE 911 R ON THE COURSE, ANOTHER FOR PARTS IN THE PIT. AN EXTRAORDINARY MOVE!

THE 911 R WAS READY JUST IN TIME. THE POTHOLES WERE MARKED WITH WHITE ARROWS TO WARN THE DRIVERS. THEN THE CAR TOOK OFF. WE WERE SO NERVOUS. AND WHEN THE LEFT SUSPENSION STRUT BROKE AFTER 7,000 KILOMETERS, THE WEATHER TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE TOO ...

OH, NO ... A STORM?

NOT ONLY THAT. THE FOG ROLLED IN, LIMITING VISIBILITY TO LESS THAN 30 METERS. WE THEN USED FLASHLIGHTS AND POSITIONED BURNING OIL BARRELS ALONG THE EDGE OF THE COURSE, SO THAT THE DRIVERS WOULD KNOW WHERE IT WAS.

BUT YOU BROKE THE RECORD, RIGHT?

WE DID! AFTER FOUR DAYS AND FOUR NIGHTS, 20,000 KILOMETERS, 90 SETS OF TIRES, AND 4,716 LAPS, THE 911 R BROKE FIVE WORLD AND 14 INTERNATIONAL RECORDS. ITS AVERAGE SPEED WAS 209.233 KM/H. AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE!

AND THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING, RIGHT? THE 911 CARRERA RS 2.7 CAME OUT FIVE YEARS LATER. A DREAM CAR THAT'S TURNING 50 THIS YEAR.

THE ONE WITH THE DUCKTAIL?

EXACTLY. THE 911 R SHOWED WHAT THE 911 WAS CAPABLE OF. IT PAVED THE WAY FOR THE RS 2.7, WHICH CAME OUT IN 1972. SO, I HAVE TO GET GOING. IT WAS A PLEASURE. ARRVEDERCI!

THAT WAS ALMOST BETTER THAN A RACE, DON'T YOU THINK?

THAT WAS SOOO COOL! GIO'S THE BEST.

HE IS! AND, DAD, I THINK YOU SHOULD GET A 911 R NOW TOO!