

2018 Mille Miglia: The First Stage

- The legend of Alfa Romeo is once again travelling the roads of the Mille Miglia, 90 years after its first success, which it now celebrates with the "[Alfa Romeo: the Mille Miglia in 90 places](#)" project, retracing the most significant stages in a unique story. Yesterday's stage took the caravan from Brescia to Milano Marittima, accompanied by the crowds of enthusiastic onlookers always drawn to this event.

May 17, 2018, Ravenna, Italy - After the sealing, racing and technical inspection procedures, the first stage of the 2018 Mille Miglia got under way yesterday. A record-breaking edition, with a total of 440 crews taking part, plus ten in the "Military Category," giving this year's event a total of 900 people from 36 countries across every continent. The 450 cars accepted to take part in the 2018 Mille Miglia are of 72 different brands, and Alfa Romeo has a very large group, with 47 cars entered from official and private teams.

Alfa Romeo is the brand which has put its name on the winners' board more than any other in the race's history: it can boast of eleven victories, eleven silver medals, ten third place finishes and nine "triples," with its cars taking the top three places. Alfa Romeo's bond with the competition is truly unique, and this year's event is a really special edition, because it coincides with the ninetieth anniversary of Alfa Romeo's first win. To celebrate this milestone, the "[Alfa Romeo: the Mille Miglia in 90 places](#)" project has been created, to retrace the most significant stages in a unique story through ninety photos of the most emblematic locations, some of them also on this year's route.

The first touch on the accelerator was at 2:30 p.m. yesterday on Brescia's Viale Venezia, alongside the Rebuffone Gardens. Enthusiasm, passionate excitement and speed combine with the sensation that time has stood still. Journalist Giuseppe Tonelli, writing in 1927, described the Mille Miglia as "something undefined, with a touch of the supernatural, which recalls old fairytales." Time has not really stood still, so a historic re-evocation of the legendary race of the past is to be embraced with open arms. To quote Tonelli again: "There is something about the name Mille Miglia that conjures up ground-breaking vehicle design and human daring." More than ninety years have gone by, and technical progress is undeniable and self-evident, especially in the Alfa Romeo Stelvio and Giulia.

High-performing innovative engines, distinctive Italian design and unique technical solutions give the SUV and sedan authentic Alfa Romeo status. Naturally, they also feature efficient active safety systems such as Forward Collision Warning (FCW) with Autonomous Emergency Brake (AEB) and pedestrian recognition, IBS (Integrated Brake System), Lane Departure Warning (LDW), and cruise control. Important contents which have combined with these models' outstanding design to gain the coveted Euro NCAP five star rating.

Safety and guiding pleasure are enjoyed on board, but what delights enthusiasts on the outside are the taut, stylish, muscular lines, the compact forms, the expression of the headlights and an unmistakably Alfa Romeo aerodynamic language. A blend of technical and design factors, resulting in looks that inspire simple but vital emotions. So the roads along the way were packed. And as evening approached, more and more people thronged the pavements and verges to see the cars pass. A warm, boundless passion, difficult to describe and, above all, universal. The Mille Miglia excites everyone, irrespective of age, gender or automotive knowledge.

What matters is being there, the applause that rings out as the cars go by, and the roar of the engines that transforms the everyday roads. For once, as the caravan passes, Italy's irresistible postcard beauty takes second place, to a beauty in motion, made up of moments to be captured. One of the first clues to this unique, all-Italian splendour came between Desenzano del Garda and Sirmione, where, for once, the restaurants set out their tables right on the kerb, and clients seated under the pines along Viale Matteotti had a ringside view of the regularity trial. This was followed by the placid backdrop of the lungo lago Diaz lakeside promenade, before the cars bade farewell to the Sirmione peninsula and headed for Monzambano. Another regularity trial, and more roadside tables, but this time for picnics,

on the edges of the vineyards and outside country homes. The passage through the Parco Giardino Sigurtà was especially memorable: the crash barriers were rose bushes in bloom, and the wheels ran noiselessly through freshly mown lawns and impeccably laid paving.

The journey towards the final destination of Cervia-Milano Marittima was broken up by a series of timed checkpoints and stamp inspections. At the start, every competitor receives a timesheet which must be stamped at specific times, which vary depending on the car's starting position. Apparently complex, this system becomes more and more natural as the race progresses. The route, set by a roadbook, also includes time trial sections. These have to be covered in a given period of time, at a specific average speed. Which is more fun, pure speed or regularity? There is no one answer and opinions differ, but every driver shares the will to win that takes over once the competition starts.

Darkness was setting in when the first car reached Milano Marittima. The hardness of the road was making its effects felt, but everyone's fatigue was relieved by the lapping of the waves in one of the Adriatic Coast's most attractive resorts, immersed in the Cervia pinewood. The summer season has not yet started but Milano Marittima is warm and stylish, and the "globally unique travelling museum," as Enzo Ferrari once defined it, was inevitably the evening's big draw.

About Alfa Romeo

Since its foundation in Milan, Italy, in 1910, Alfa Romeo has designed and crafted some of the most stylish and exclusive cars in automotive history. That tradition lives on today as Alfa Romeo continues to take a unique and innovative approach to designing automobiles. Born from the world's greatest driving road – the Stelvio Pass – the Alfa Romeo Stelvio sets a new benchmark in performance, style and technology in an SUV that could only be from Italy. The award-winning Alfa Romeo Giulia delivers race-inspired performance, advanced technologies, seductive Italian style and an exhilarating driving experience to the premium mid-size sedan segment. Crafted by Alfa Romeo artisans at the Cassino plant in Italy, the Giulia Quadrifoglio and the Stelvio Quadrifoglio feature Alfa Romeo's most powerful production engine ever with best-in-class 0-60 mph times of 3.8 and 3.6 seconds, respectively. Rounding out Alfa Romeo's world-class lineup is the handcrafted Alfa Romeo 4C Spider, which represents the purest form of La meccanica delle emozioni (the mechanics of emotion), with its race-inspired, mid-engine design and state-of-the-art, Formula 1-inspired carbon fiber monocoque chassis.

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