

Visitor's Corner

RAID celebrating 30th Anniversary – Klosters to Vienna

Tomorrow, Saturday 22nd August car enthusiasts and spectators of all ages have the unique opportunity to watch 73 historic cars set off from Klosters on a challenging 3-day classic car rally of around 750 km to Vienna.

cs | The word «raid» in medieval Scottish military language meant a rapid attack with an equally rapid retreat to the starting point. However, the RAID old-timer events have nothing to do with the warlike aspect of the attack. Here, the word is derived from the long-distance journeys of the French automobile industry called «Raid»: in the 1920s and 1930s, these journeys led across Africa and as far as China to prove the quality of the vehicles.

And because almost all classic car events carry the word Classic somewhere in the brand, the RAID - as a unique selling point - is simply called «the RAID».

It all began with the RAID Suisse-Paris in 1991, a long-distance trip that starts in August from Basel and runs over annually changing routes to Paris, the cradle of automotive culture.

The brand RAID (the event is managed in the sense of a brand article) stands for impeccable organisation, the most beautiful routes, community experience at the highest level and for culture which is a characteristic that other organisers are hardly able to offer. Also part of the tradition is exceptionally good hotels and excellent food.

Every year, about 30 officials accompany the event from the start in Switzerland to the finish, which is usually reached after three days of driving. The comprehensive support of the participants includes the rally's own breakdown service with workshop cars and towing vehicles with trailers, a TCS patrol specialising in historic cars as well as a luggage service from hotel to hotel. The RAID events are occasions that are aimed at a demanding audience and the name stands for premium - in every respect.

On Saturday, the cars will start assembling at 10.00 am in the Alte Eisenbahn/Arena car park and at 12.15 pm the first car - an English Sunbeam from 1925 - will start from the from the car park followed by oldtimers born between 1925 and 1990. The cars will drive up to the Bahnhofstrasse and back down to the Landstrasse so giving an opportunity to see and enjoy hearing each car in action! The route will take them over the Flüela Pass and through the Lower Engadine on ro-



Come and cheer the historic classic cars start from the Alte Eisenbahn car park and then drive through Klosters on the Bahnhofstrasse as they did in Martin Schwalder's Alpine Classic (photo from 2017).

Foto: cs

mantic side roads to Tirol and Innsbruck where they will spend the first night. On Sunday, the traditional big rally day, the route leads through the Inn valley to Salzkammergut and lunch on an alp with a fantastic view. Then onto the charming town of Bad Ischl, marked by memories of Emperor Franz Joseph and Sisi, and onto Gmunden on Lake Traunsee and finally arriving in Linz in time for a welcome drink and dinner! The final leg of the rally on Monday starts from Linz to Ems, the oldest town in Austria and is followed by an impressive trip along the Danube to another highlight of the trip: the magnificent Baroque complex and UNESCO World Heritage Site Melk Abbey directly overlooking the Danube. A tour of the splendid Abbey Church and the Park with its artistic flower beds is included with lunch in the monastery area. After lunch it is onto to St. Pölten and then to a castle near Vienna for a cocktail reception and then a short drive to the famous Kärntnering in the city centre to the Grand Hotel where dinner and the award ceremony will take place in the ballroom. What a marvellous journey through a va-

riety of scenery combining culture and tradition of the Habsburg monarchy amidst the experience of stunning landscapes.

Spectators will be fascinated by the variety of brands of cars taking place in this rally - some of which have long since ceased to exist - but also by the diversity of models. Very exclusive cars will start with models that once shaped everyday life in Switzerland. No fewer than eleven pre-war models are on the starting line including a Bentley 4.5 from 1927, an Aston Martin Le Mans 1930 and a highly elegant Cadillac limousine from 1938. Almost 40 brands will characterise this rolling museum including two Mercedes 300 SL gullwing coupes, two very rare Aston Martins, Jaguar, Alfa-Romeo, Porsche, Ferrari. There is also a 1952 Citroën Traction Avant, a 1970 2CV Charleston, a 1964 DKW F12 and a 1976 MGB - basically plenty of fabulous classic cars to look at! Do go and enjoy and cheer the drivers on their adventure celebrating 30 years of RAID. For further information, list of the participants and cars and the programme go to the website www.raid.ch.