

# Bulletin



Octagon  
Car Club

'The' Club for pre 1956 MGs  
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# Gabicce Mare

Like Gaydon or Silverstone, Gabicce Mare is a mecca for MG enthusiasts. Gabicce is located south of Rimini, right next to Cattolica on the Adriatic Sea and within easy reach of San Marino.

The most famous Italian MG meeting has been held here every two years in May since 1992. It was initiated by the former president of the Italian MG Car Club, Fabio Filippello, and the head of the Gabicce tourist office, Letizia Vincenzetti.

As an eight-time participant in this event, I am still enthusiastic about it. Unlike almost any other classic car event, it spans an entire week. You always arrive on Sunday and the following seven days are filled with a tour to Le Marche, Emilia Romagna or Tuscany.

You arrive, register at the tourist office with Letizia or Raffaele, receive your participation documents and are allocated a hotel. As a long-standing participant, you have usually already pre-selected your favourite hotel.

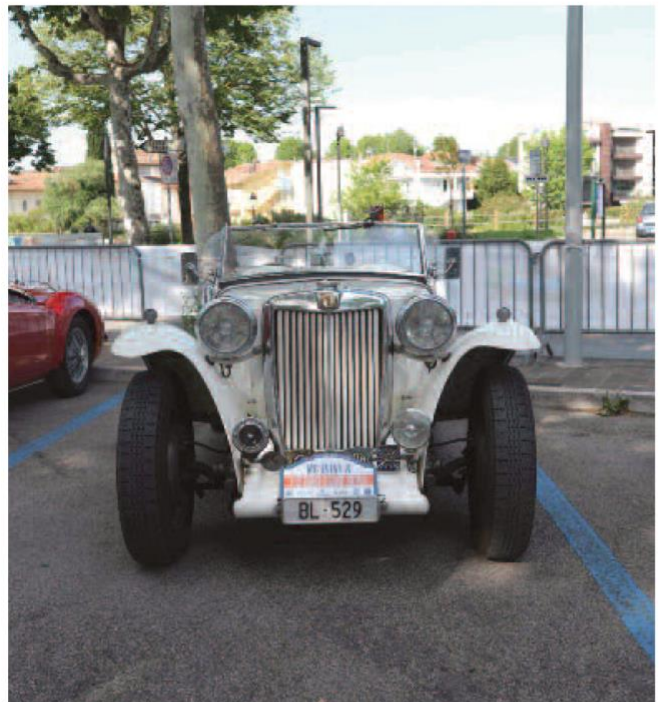


The participation documents consist of a very comprehensive road book with the daily tours and sights to be visited that day. You also receive the rally sign and a piece of clothing such as a T-shirt, sweatshirt or baseball cap - all embroidered with the Gabicce logo, of course.

The number of participants varies from event to event from around 25 to over 150



vehicles when Gabicce is organised as a European event. Participants come from all over Europe: England, Benelux, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France, and even from Finland. At the weekend, there are usually several Italian vehicles as well. Most of them travel on their own axles, but older vehicles such as MMM or T models are sometimes transported by trailer.



In addition to the trips into the lovely hilly landscape and the historic villages and small towns, the visits and tours of castles and fortresses, as well as monasteries and cathedrals, eating and drinking is of course very important in Italy. A typical lunch break in a restaurant lasts two to three hours, sometimes even longer.

# GABICCE MARE • ITALY

“... living free, together  
... vivere liberi, insieme!”

## MG & CLASSIC CARS

19 - 25 MAY  
EVENT 2025



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GRUPPO  
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Comune di  
Gabicce Mare

GABICCE  
maremonte



CONFCOMMERCIO  
IMPRESE PER L'ITALIA

PESARO E URBINO/MARCHE NORD



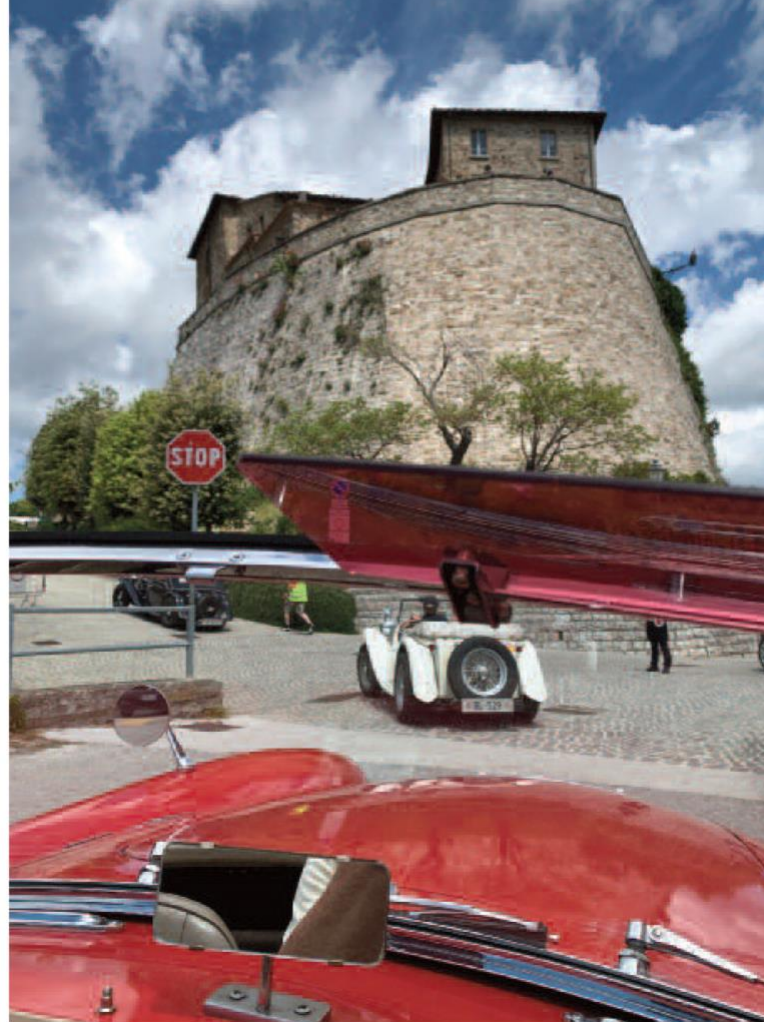
Several courses are always served and red and white wine are always on the table. After the dolce (dessert) and the espresso, we continue our journey together, usually taking a different route back to Gabicce.

Since last year, some changes have been made to the organisation. The event now takes place annually and is no longer limited to MG, but this does not detract from the carefully selected tours through the historic landscape of central Italy.

And the best thing about the rides is the police escort. A police car drives in front and several blue and white motorbikes escort the participating vehicles safely along the small and smallest country roads. All side roads and junctions are blocked off, allowing our convoy to travel unhindered and swiftly.

Of course, we also visit wineries, sometimes just for a stopover or as a lunch stop. Medieval monasteries, churches and museums are also included in our itineraries. Sometimes Roman excavations are also on the programme.

For us Central Europeans, the enthusiasm of Italians for old cars is always amazing. Here in Germany, it's rare to attract attention with an MGA or MGB. In Italy it's completely different, everyone is enthusiastic about "bella macchina". Many people wave to the passing convoy and it is very rare for someone to react angrily because they have to wait. As our route is registered with the local authorities, there are often kindergartens along the roads, waving enthusiastically and cheering with joy when they hear an old horn.



### A typical day

It starts in the morning at the hotel with a very rich breakfast buffet. The car is then taken out of the garage or from the car park and we drive to the meeting point. After a short briefing by Letitia and the interpreter Raffaele, the police escort gets on their BMW or Guzzi bikes and we follow, the older MGs in front and MGA and MGB behind.

Today, Friday, we ride to Monte Cerignone, a total distance of about 80 kilometres. We head away from the sea and soon enter a hilly landscape. The police guide us along small winding roads and always close off the crossroads and junctions so that our convoy doesn't break off.

Our first attraction today is a visit to the Pascucci coffee roasting plant, where we are shown the large roasting facilities and various packaging machines. After tasting the freshly roasted espresso beans, we continue on to the Rocca Monte Cerignone (castle complex).

The sounds of medieval lutes greet us in the castle courtyard, which is large enough to park

our 25 vehicles.

Dressed up in costume, the lord of the castle invites us to try some fresh, warm mozzarella, prosciutto and salami. Naturally, there is a glass of wine to go with it. Other people in costume perform medieval tricks and after about an hour the drummer leads us back to our cars.

We drive on to eat, less than two kilometres. Just outside here is the "Birrificio Artigianale Alto Montrefeltro", a large restaurant with its own brewery. We get beer with our meal and no wine today, a rarity in Italy. Two 3-litre jugs are placed on each table on the large outdoor terrace for pouring, followed by large wooden boards with starters. As almost always, the next course consists of pasta, followed by a meat dish with vegetables and salad. The dessert consists of pieces of sweet cake and is of course accompanied by an espresso.

At around 3 p.m., we set off on our way home again, partly via a new route, this time a little more hilly. In Gabicce, we say goodbye to the police by honking our horns, quickly fill up with petrol for tomorrow and park the MG in the hotel garage again.

We have dinner at the hotel at 19:30, starting with a sumptuous starter buffet. Now we can enjoy a glass of wine or two without any care. Afterwards, we meet up with the group from other hotels in Ciro's Bar and if we are lucky, a small 3-man band joins us and plays typical Italian songs or folk songs late into the night.

Gabicce is a virus, once you've been there you keep coming back, including my old friends Rauno and Ann from Helsinki in the red MGB.

**Walter Prechsl**



