

361 | PORSCHE CHINA

APRIL
MAY
2013

CHRISTOPHORUS

SNOW FORCE

FACING THE WINTER HEAD ON



XX | SNOW FORCE 2013

Snow Force is back again to offer the most exhilarating experience of driving Porsche models on snow and ice.

XX | 5 MINUTES WITH THE DRIVERS

Christophorus reveals what it takes to be a Porsche Carrera Cup Asia driver.

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Different models, same passion. A few customers reveal why Porsche is their sole choice.

DRIFTING ON THE VAST PLAYGROUND OF SNOW
AND ICE – A THRILL LIKE NO OTHER.



COVER STORY

FACING THE WINTER HEAD ON DRIVING ON SNOW AND ICE

Welcome to Hailar. Before you, an infinite blanket of snow and ice stretches into the horizon. The air is a chilling minus 25 degrees Celsius. For most performance car drivers, such conditions would spell disaster. But for one intrepid group of Porsche enthusiasts, it was a chance to explore the exhilarating challenges of driving on snow and ice.

Text Jason Miles
Photography Lei Gong & Kai Hartmann



Integral to the programme is the invaluable coaching and assistance from the professional instructors.



On 16 January, a daring collection of participants travelled to the icy playgrounds of Inner Mongolia to take on the ultimate winter driving challenge: Porsche Snow Force. Under the guidance of experienced instructors and with a convoy of Porsche cars, participants were taught how to better handle their vehicles in conditions of extreme cold weather. Basic driving techniques such as acute braking, evasive maneuvers and controlled drifting were practiced, with specialized tricks such as the Scandinavian Flick – a technique named after the Scandinavian rally drivers of the 1960s who, by “flicking” the wheel in a direction opposite of the turn, built up angular momentum.

Once the basics were mastered, participants had the opportunity to test their mettle in various driving challenges and competitions, such as the Fox Hunt, Downhill Slalom and the Figure of Eight.

With unrivalled Porsche performance at their fingertips, participants were set for pure driving enjoyment, with safer braking, smoother handling and incredible traction. One of the most challenging competitions on offer was the ‘Circle’ – a drifting challenge requiring unparalleled driving skill. For this course, participants had to go as fast as they could on a circular track. Moreover, this challenge was met with an added catch – cars were modified to oversteer on even the slightest turn. The result was one continuous high-speed drift across the Mongolian snow, the ultimate test of throttle and steering control. More than a few meters was considered admirable whilst completing an entire lap was the stuff of champions.

For those who had conquered the basics, 2013 saw the introduction of a brand new course: Snow Force S. Aimed for those already familiar with the Snow Force

programme, Snow Force S provided an opportunity for participants to take their driving skills to the next level. The highlight of this course – studded tyres to provide phenomenal traction and the sole use of Porsche sports cars. Participants experienced the rush of higher speeds, greater g-force and a quickened pulse. Embracing the almost limitless possibilities of a Porsche, those who took part became proficient enough to tackle even the toughest of terrains.

High-speed ice driving was not the only attraction. Off the icy track, participants were embraced by the warm-hearted nomadic traditions of the locals. On the first night they were treated to a veritable feast consisting of a whole roast lamb with various other local delicacies. Subsequent evenings played host to an array of traditional dancing and music events for everybody to enjoy.



The new 911 Carrera 4 makes its debut on snow and ice, which adds an extra thrill to this year's Snow Force driving experience.



For those who chose to begin the New Year by honing their driving skills on the icy landscapes of Inner Mongolia, the exhilarating two-day programme proved to be exactly what they had been expecting, if not more. One Snow Force participant, Mr Chen, was positive when asked whether his driving had improved, "The event reveals another aspect about driving, which is very different from that of day-to-day life. It helped me to better understand the performance of each Porsche model while enhancing my driving skills, especially when cornering." Mr Wang, another driver, beamed when asked to reflect on his time in Hailar, "I have never driven in such harsh conditions and this time, we got to drive each of the Porsche models and discover their full potential, which was amazing. Also, the service and hospitality was just impeccable. I think this really says something about the Porsche brand."

In an extreme winter setting and charming local culture, coupled with all-new high performance cars, Snow Force 2013 was the ultimate Porsche driving experience of a lifetime. ●

A comprehensive and detailed record of the performance of each Body Paint technician was conducted by the judges for final evaluation.



A contestant is shaping the front wing of the Cayenne, where their panel reshaping skill is tested.



Locating specified information from the comprehensive and all-inclusive database, PIWIS.



During the Spot Welding test module, a contestant is removing spot welding connections.



EVENT REVIEW

RESTORATION TO PERFECTION BODY REPAIR AT PORSCHE AFTER SALES SERVICE

When flawed, the finest artworks require the savviest and most meticulous hands for restoration. And a Porsche car, by all means a classic piece of art, asks for no less amount of care in case of any damage, however minute it may seem, if it is expected to be as good as new.

Text Huang Ning

Good as new may sound impossible sometimes, but at Porsche, a marque known for delivering consistent quality for more than 60 years, it is a guaranteed promise delivered by the most well-trained body repair technicians who apply the latest techniques and use only the best equipment. "Seeing a damaged car restored to perfect condition through our hands is the most fulfilling moment of the job, and that's also what we spare no effort to achieve," says Zhao Liangsong, a Body Repair Technician at Porsche Centre Tianjin. Although a veteran who has served in a couple of 4S stores of major automakers for more than ten years, he was still impressed when he started to work for Porsche in 2009 with the cutting-edge facilities of the Porsche After Sales Service. Particularly with the stringency and thoroughness of the Porsche Integrated Workshop Information System, which methodically guides him and his colleagues at Porsche Centres across

China in every working procedure. "The environment we work in allows no slipshod job and no negligence of even the barely noticeable defects," emphasises Zhao.

GOOD AS NEW, TO THE LAST DETAIL

For any Porsche enthusiasts, even a small scratch or dent on their beloved cars can be a big eyesore, let alone a warped door or a disfigured front. Excellently executed repair, as a result of the standardised working environment, adequate preparation process and detail-oriented technicians, capable of skillful use of sophisticated tools and techniques, can achieve such a miraculous face-lift.

One of the techniques that Porsche technicians employ to ensure that every bit of damage in any nook and cranny of a car gets properly mended is tin filling, a highly demanding treatment which many car service providers are not capable of.

"None of the providers I worked for in the past had this technique," recalls Zhao, "repair work for hard-to-reach spots definitely makes the car more durable."

With the aid of a variety of advanced sanding and heating equipment, tin filling, when performed by conscientious Porsche technicians, can smooth the slightest scars in the trickiest corners, including those at the bottom panel or around the rim of a car's taillight. A car says a lot about the taste of its owners, and by punctilious operation to make every inch of it as good as new, we make sure that Porsche customers can always rest assured that their pursuit of perfection will never be compromised.

GUARANTEED SAFETY, WITH FULLY RE-ESTABLISHED RIGIDITY

While bringing a damaged Porsche back to its original state of perfection is important, it is also of paramount importance to

re-establish its exceptional level of safety, a well-known hallmark of Porsche's outstanding quality. When vital parts for protection are impaired in an accident, the repair work is done by Porsche technicians in a manner that guarantees the 100% restoration of the structural integrity and rigidity, so that it can withstand impact the day it rolled off the assembly line.

It surely takes the most proficient technicians working with cutting-edge technologies to accomplish such a feat. "Some methods we use are exactly those that are applied in the Porsche factory," reveals Ren Hai, an up-and-coming technician at Porsche Centre Changchun. A remarkable example is spot welding, a precision welding technology that utilises enormous pressure to join together layers of extra-high tensile sheet metal, which is used extensively throughout the bodywork of Porsche to ensure maximum safety. "When damage is inflicted upon



The top ten winners of the 'Body Repair Competence Contest' for Porsche China 2022 stand together for a memorable shot at the Awards Dinner.



structural parts which provide crucial protection to the cockpit and passenger compartment, this is the most effective practice to get the rigidity back on the original level," explains Zhao.

TRAINED TO EXCEL

To achieve the remarkable results demonstrated above, takes not only the most advanced techniques and equipment, but also people of the highest calibre. Porsche has always been dedicated to cultivating its technicians through a variety of means. The Porsche Technician Certification Programme requires experienced technicians to participate in a range of training modules, each consisting of 3-4 days of rigorous hands-on training designed for a particular aspect of the job, before granting them a chance for assessment, which only those most skilled and scrupulous are allowed to pass. And whenever a new Porsche model is launched,

they will be mustered for further relevant training so as to keep abreast with the latest developments of Porsche.

This is definitely a demanding job, but there are people who just love it that way. "That's why I came here. I was sick of seeing perfunctory work fooling customers at my previous job," admits Ren Hai, who used to work for a high-end automaker. "At Porsche we are trained to not only to be good at, but also serious with our work. We're trained to make things perfect."

While comprehensive training shapes experienced hands into qualified Porsche technicians, more efforts are carried out to spur them for further improvement. One example is the Body Repair Competence Contest for Porsche China 2012, which, held on December 8th, pitched the best technicians from every Porsche Centre against each other in a competition that

covers all elements of their daily job. "I felt greatly inspired by this event. I think it will be a driving force for me to get better," says Zhao, the first place winner. "And it is also very helpful for me as I was able to share experiences with colleagues of other Porsche Centres." Afterwards, the Awards Dinner saw honour certificates and prizes awarded to the top ten winners in recognition of their achievements and as a motivation for further improvement.

The unremitting efforts of Porsche technicians in self-improvement reflect how much Porsche is committed to perfecting its After Sales service for its customers. Because, after all, perfection is what they want, and what we deliver. ●



Mrs. Gu and her husband's passion for Porsche is a long-lasting one that has spanned over ten years.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A SHARED PASSION PORSCHE CUSTOMERS INTERVIEW

Text Huang Ning
Photography Kai Hartmann

A FAMILY TREASURE

Sandwiched between the expanse of Dushu Lake and Jinji Lake in Suzhou, the winding tree-lined Guobin Road is a tranquil route for most of the day. So when the distinctive growling of the Cayman's engine comes near and echoes in the air, the serenity, instead of being broken, seems mysteriously more profound with its enthralling sound.

"It feels so great driving down this quiet road, the sound is pure music to my ears. And while my heart nearly experiences levitation, my mind is assured all the time that it is sturdy and firm on the ground," marvels Mrs. Gu Qing with a smile on her face, as she effortlessly manoeuvres the Cayman around a gentle curve, before stepping on the gas for another thrill of the sensational acceleration on the less-travelled road. Whether it is going swimming, golfing, shopping, or simply passing the time with her favourite companion, the

Cayman always keeps her in high spirit. "It's such an invigorating driving experience," she says. "And it is very practical too. I drive it almost everywhere I go."

She is in fact almost ten years overdue for this kind of exhilarating Porsche driving pleasure, although it was within her easy reach all along. "When my husband and I were living in Hong Kong in 2000, we had a Boxster," explains Mrs. Gu. "I drove it for a while, but eventually I had to give up because I could never get used to the right-handed steering wheel." That unfulfilling experience seems to have only spurred her desire to find a Porsche that suited her. So when she moved back to Suzhou with her husband a few years ago, she immediately decided it was time to see what she could really do with a Porsche sports car.

"To be honest, the heaviness of the chassis surprised me when I first got in the car, for a

moment I was worried that I couldn't handle it well," recalls Mrs. Gu of her first drive of the Cayman, "but after a few minutes I found myself already madly in love with it, with the free, smooth, and secure feeling it gave me." That is exactly the kind of experience that many Porsche enthusiasts share, and which her husband, Mr. Luo, used to indulge in when behind the wheel of their Boxster at the picturesque Repulse Bay, a regular playground for car enthusiasts in Hong Kong. "It runs fast and slows down fast, which fires up your blood. It's such a great feeling, you have the surge of passion while having it all under easy control," says Mr. Luo excitedly.

When wife and husband both expressed, unreservedly, utter satisfaction with Porsche, it is only natural that their next car would be of the same illustrious pedigree too. With a toddler and the elders to be taken care of, a family car was what they needed, and the

Cayenne became their most desirable choice. "Safety was what we valued most when buying a family car, and our previous experience with Porsche had us fully convinced of its reliability," says Mr. Luo. "And with the space and comfort offered by the Cayenne, we wouldn't even think about other cars." The fact that they were willing to wait ten months before getting the Cayenne from the Suzhou Porsche Centre conveyed just how much importance the car would hold for them.

Whenever they have the chance, the couple drive their big family in their two Porsche cars on a few hours' trip to holiday destinations like Qiandao Lake. With a sense of freedom and dependable security, these trips present very happy moments for everyone. But there are also times when the couple are alone and fancy some mischievous fun by rivalling each other, she driving the Cayman, he the Cayenne.

"It's very amusing, but she always gains the upper hand," jokes Mr. Luo with a touch of manly modesty. "I have yet to give it my best," Mrs. Gu laughs gaily. "I mean, even after three years of driving I don't think I have tapped its full potential. I would certainly like to take part in the Porsche Sport Driving School when I have the time." This is exactly what Porsche is about: more than just a car, with infinite possibilities to be explored.

Love at first sight: Mrs. Xie Wenmei and her 911 Carrera Cabriolet.



YOU CAN NEVER SEE ENOUGH OF IT

Born in a family of avid art collectors, Mrs. Xie Wenmei certainly knows a great piece of artwork when she sees one. So when she saw the Panamera for the first time in 2011, she knew straight away that one more item should be added to her much treasured art collection. "I was amazed by its aesthetic beauty, totally captivated," recalls Mrs. Xie, "and I wanted to have it right away."

And when she first found herself sitting behind its wheel, manoeuvring it as she would like to, she became overtaken by a fantastic feeling that she not only owned this incredible artwork, but was also living it. "Its interior is as divine as its exterior. It is exquisite without being ornate, elaborate but in a simplistic style," observes Mrs. Xie. "And it is even more incredible that such beauty can be attained along with exceptional practicality."

The four-seat Panamera, promising a sporty and comfortable experience to drivers as well as passengers, proved to be a vehicle adequate for all of Mrs. Xie's daily needs. Whether picking up her son or her clients, or driving her family to vacation resorts, it does the job gracefully and fast, and most importantly, in a manner that she finds most reassuring. "I knew German cars are generally strongly built and reliable, but I didn't know it could be that reliable," says Mrs. Xie, referring to the extremely solid performance of her Panamera when she was caught up in a rear-end collision accident on a cloverleaf interchange in Nanjing two years ago. "While the front of the car that bumped me ended up in a mess, the rear of my Panamera looked almost intact, even the damage on the paint was barely noticeable."

While the Panamera became increasingly involved in her life, in both daily and artistic aspects, Mrs. Xie came across another in-

For Mrs. Xie, the 911 is a pure art form that speaks subtleness and elegance.



genious creation of Porsche that once again gave her a sense of ecstasy. When visiting one of the most eminent artists in China, she was shown a red 911 Cabriolet which the artist bought in 2006 when he was more than 80 years old. "Of course at his age he didn't drive much, but he just loved it, it was pure art to him," recounts Mrs. Xie, "and the mere sight of it cast a lingering and irresistible spell on me." So when she came back home, she immediately ordered one for herself from Porsche Centre Nanjing – without even a test drive. Given her experience with the Panamera, it didn't surprise Mrs. Xie at all that her 911, body in white and top in red, would drive every bit as well as it looks.

"It is a very versatile car; it can give you the breath-taking thrill of passion when driving it on the open road, or take you to the nearby block for grocery shopping. It's easy to get whatever you want from it," she says, obvi-

ously pleased with the driving pleasure and pragmatic functions of the 911. But for an art lover like Mrs. Xie, the most poignant charm of the 911 still lies in its classic design. She has seen many sports cars, but their design, though not without style, strike her as either overbearing, florid, or just un-aesthetic. To her trained eyes, the design of the iconic 911 is a symbol of the perfect balance between formidable performance and suave elegance. "It is like the unaffected combination of Yin and Yang," she says approvingly, "and more miraculously, such beauty has been preserved in its original form throughout decades of innovation. I really wonder how Porsche designers could have done that."

Her fondness for the 911 is so great that she never gets tired of looking at it. Even when she parks it, she sometimes looks back to admire it a few steps away. "You just can't see enough of it," Mrs. Xie concludes.

MR. ZHOU AND HIS TREASURED TRIO: CAYENNE GTS,
CAYENNE TURBO AND 911 TURBO S.



AN AVID PASSION FOR PORSCHE

If the magnificent wooden cabinet full of miniature car models in the office does not suffice to showcase the enthusiasm of Mr. Zhou Songlin, then his dozen top-class cars including four Porsche models certainly will. “But some of them will have to go in time, and their places will be filled by the latest Porsche models, mostly of the Cayenne and 911 family,” notes Mr. Zhou in a casual but obviously ardent tone.

This deep passion for Porsche, like so many other intriguing personal stories about the sports car legend, starts with the very first encounter. “It is definitely love at first sight,” recalls Mr. Zhou, who fell under the spell of the Cayenne at Auto Shanghai years ago. “It was so beautiful, unbelievably beautiful, that I really wished I had seen it earlier. And it also looks immensely powerful and sporty.” A sentiment which hasn’t faltered in the slightest, especially after acquiring his Cayenne Turbo from Porsche Centre Nanjing, which proved to be every bit as good as he had imagined.

In the next few years, a Cayenne GTS and a newer generation of the Cayenne Turbo successively found their places in his garage too, and since then, the Porsche SUV trio have become the most driven cars among his fleet for the 40 kilometres drive to and from work. On the way they carry him through the busy streets of the city and along the scenic riverside thoroughfare, refreshing him with the exhilarating drive, and sometimes, reassuring him when the road conditions become treacherous. “They are really all-round, all-season cars,” says Mr. Zhou, “the long rainy season in southern China can be quite troublesome for driving. But with their tight grip and agility, there’s no worry. Safe and smooth as always – that’s something few cars are capable of!”

A hardcore enthusiast of Porsche, Mr. Zhou is naturally infatuated with the iconic 911 too. “When we talk about pedigree in the automobile industry, no other car is comparable to this classic,” comments the well-informed car connoisseur with a touch of finality. Whenever he feels like blowing off steam after work and on the weekends, he takes his 911 Turbo S out

for a spin, appreciating the sleekness, the power and the timelessness exuded by its design. On vacations, Mr. Zhou takes great pleasure in driving it five or six hours up north, all the way to some coastal cities like Qingdao and Weihai, where he indulges with the company of a few kindred spirits, in the stimulating drive along the seashore.

“I’ve driven quite a lot of super sports cars, some of which may keep up with the 911 Turbo S in terms of power, but none handle as easily and smoothly as it does,” says Mr. Zhou of his most treasured car bought two years ago. “Another thing I love most about it is the open view as a result of its ingeniously designed windshield and hood. You just don’t get that from other sports cars.”

With four Porsche cars parked in his garage, Mr. Zhou’s love for this world-renowned car marque is far from peaking. Aside from the 918 Spyder that he marvelled at during the Roadshow in Beijing last year and which he ordered immediately afterwards, the new 911 Turbo S is also on his to-buy list this year, which will be a present to his wife. “I also have a keen interest in the 961,” he says excitedly. “In fact, I’d like to collect every one of the sportiest Porsche cars launched in China.” Well, we certainly will not be surprised if in a couple of years, more garages are found at Mr. Zhou’s residence, wherein most of the cars will sport the same shining logo – Porsche. ●

With an ever growing grid, Porsche Carrera Cup Asia sees more and more professional and gentleman drivers compete for a spot on the podium.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

WHERE RACING ASPIRATIONS ARE FUSED

Racing drivers have a keen appetite for competition at a higher level. The Porsche Carrera Cup Asia, the premium one-make racing series in the region, is where the dreams of ambitious pros and avid enthusiasts of motor racing come together.

Text Huang Ning
Photography Lei Gong

For these avid motorsports enthusiasts who thirst for victory and experiences which everyday life does not offer, the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia is the perfect place for them. Since the introduction of Class B in 2004, the series has seen a number of gentleman drivers race along with professionals and learn from the best in the business. "I ran a business full time until I was 25, then I realised I didn't want the shirt, the tie and the boardroom to be the whole of my life. I think I wanted something else, which racing gives me," says Yuey Tan, a gentleman driver placed fifth in Class B last season. His late-found enthusiasm was fuelled by years of participation in the Porsche Sport Driving School in Australia, eventually leading him onto the stage of the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia in 2008 and he has indulged in the fast and furious competition ever since. "I can't imagine a life without it anymore."

This is no exaggeration. Once the thrill from racing is experienced, the energised sensation of speed and freedom gets into the blood and changes one forever. That is why many of the gentleman drivers in the championship fell under the spell of racing, and remain devoted to this infinitely more stimulating aspect of their lives. It is why Rose Tan, the first female driver to ever race in the series, was enchanted after a light-hearted racing try-out in 2004. She then went on, with admirable determination to endure a tough period of working on-and-off to fund her passion.

But turning pro and aiming to be the best in the sport may be a different story, one that almost invariably involves a passion that buds very early in life and a family able and willing to see it bloom.

Alexandre Imperatori, the newly crowned champion of the 2012 season, started

The narrow street circuit of Singapore proved to be the most fun and memorable race of the 2012 season for all the drivers.



go-karting at the age of 4 and was taken around Spain before he was 10 to compete at regional and national championships, where he scored multiple victories. Rodolfo Avila, the second runner-up last year, was brought up as a diehard fan of the Macau Grand Prix by his father, and at the age of 15 became the youngest driver ever to attend the prestigious event. Prior to their 18th birthdays, Martin Ragginger, Ho-pin Tung and Benjamin Rouget, who finished 4th, 5th and 6th overall respectively in their debut season with the championship, were all too familiar with the podium.

These racing talents, each having matured and made their mark through a variety of racing competitions, came to the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia when they found themselves itching for a tougher challenge, because they know this is where the competition is at its fiercest level. "It is definitely the most competitive series we

have in Asia," comments Avila, a four-season veteran in the championship, which, by making itself available to racing enthusiasts and pooling together a constellation of elite race drivers, has firmly established its status as the most influential one-make series across the region and greatly promoted the motorsport culture here.

The 2012 season, the most competitive yet, saw a record grid of 28 professional and gentleman drivers unleash their passion and strive to push their limits. There is something for them all. Exemplary of this was the race at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore. Many drivers, including those most experienced and well-travelled, were deeply impressed with it. "The amazing track, amazing ambience, it was such an exciting race," recalls Rouget, who finished 7th on that weekend. Held in partnership with Formula 1, the race which started at nightfall featured unforgiving turns and

narrow streets that put everyone's driving skills to the ultimate test. "It's very challenging. But that's why we all loved and enjoyed it," comments Zhang Dasheng, the 20-year-old up-and-coming Chinese driver who made his debut in the series in 2012.

For the past decade, the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia has witnessed countless racing talents and enthusiasts battle with the same fiery passion in many memorable races like this. Now celebrating its ten year anniversary in the upcoming season, the championship is committed more than ever to further fuelling that passion and facilitating the ever growing motorsport culture across the region. ●

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

FIVE MINUTES WITH THE DRIVERS

How does it feel to be a racing driver? Christophorus spent a few precious minutes with some of the drivers during the Finale weekend of the 2012 season to get an insight into their passion for racing.

Text Huang Ning
Photography Lei Gong

Christophorus: What brought you to the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia again this year?
Avila: This is definitely the most competitive championship we have in the Asian region. I joined in 2009 and since then the grid has been getting bigger and the level getting higher, which is why I feel inspired to stay. My partnership with Jepsen has been going on for the last three years, and I'm happy to continue.

C: What has been the biggest challenge for you so far this season?

A: As a driver it is not always easy. We need to work hard, but we don't have much time to practice between races as the cars are always moving from track to track. So sometimes the results are not what you expected, and you start to feel you are not giving it your best. Before you know it, you start overdriving, and it is very difficult to get out of that mode, which can really create a problem in lap times and performance.

C: How do you prepare for a race?

A: We need to do a lot of physical as well as mental preparation for the races. What also plays a big part is our engineers. We need the engineer to prepare the car, because its set-up is always different from track to track – sometimes even on the same track, as there is a huge difference between the track being dry and wet. This all happens in the background, but it is very important before each race.

**RODOLFO AVILA**

DRIVER OF TEAM JEPSEN. 4-TIMES RACER IN THE SERIES. SECOND PLACE WINNER OF 2011 SEASON AND THIRD PLACE WINNER OF 2012 SEASON.

CHRISTIAN CHIA

DRIVER OF TEAM OPENROAD RACING. 2-TIMES RACER IN THE SERIES. EIGHTH PLACE WINNER IN CLASS B IN 2010 AND SEVENTH PLACE WINNER IN CLASS B IN 2012 SEASON.

CHRISTIAN CHIA - GAS IN THE BLOOD

Christophorus: What were the highs and lows of the season for you?

Chia: The highlight has to be the night race in Singapore. We have raced in the past in Singapore, but the time slots have never been at night. This time we were just before the Formula 1 race. The cars looked great, the track looked great, and it's something I will never forget.

My only disappointment was just the results. I think my ambition is probably greater than my skill. Seventh was not ideal for me. But I live in Vancouver and arrived the day before each race. Having to adapt quickly to the time zone is an additional pressure. If it wasn't for that, I think I would be much faster.

C: What is it about racing that attracts and fascinates you?

Chia: Both my two brothers and I grew up around cars, so we have always been very passionate about racing and have been doing it for a long time. Although we never had any ambitions to do it on a professional level, it really defines us – cars define us. We are also involved in the business, we like driving fast cars, and we like racing them. There is that old cliché saying that there is gas running in the blood, and I think for us that is really true.

C: In your opinion, can anyone be a racing driver?

Chia: I think so. I just got my best friend, a surgeon from Hawaii, to start racing. He could barely start his daily driving car two years ago, but after some proper training, he has now taken part in a few Porsche Carrera Cup Asia races as well.



MARTIN RAGGINGER - LIVING THE DREAM

Christophorus: Are you happy with your performance in this season so far?

Ragginger: Yes, I am very happy. We performed well and our worst qualifying position was the 2nd, so we were in the front row every time. Of course we had some bad races, and some bad luck. But it was our first year here, and everybody was still learning, so now we are looking forward to the next year. I am aiming to win the championship next year.

C: What do you enjoy most about being in the car and on the racetrack?

R: It is what I do all year round, and what I have done since I was seven years old. With all sports, if you have the opportunity to make it your profession then you are very lucky. It is something I have always dreamed of, so now it feels like living a dream.

C: What is your ultimate goal as a racing driver?

R: My ultimate goal is to win long-distance races. Actually over the years, I have developed more into a long distance specialist than a sprint racer. I was part of the team that won the 24 hours at Spa in 2010. Now I want to win the 24 hours at Nurburgring, which is my ultimate goal. I was close once but we had an engine problem. Nonetheless, I will keep on pushing. I am still young.

C: What does it take to become a racing driver?

R: Parents are hugely important for sure. My father was a driver, and if you don't have a family that believes or is interested in the sport, then it is very difficult for a young child to get into it. There has to be an interest or a family history, and if you see many successful Formula 1 drivers, they all come out of the same family. I think this is the most important thing to start with and then of course you need some luck to get sponsors, or maybe a rich parent! I was lucky to have Red Bull who supported me for many years. Then of course you need the talent too.



MARTIN RAGGINGER
DRIVER OF TEAM EAGLE-JIE JUN
& JUNBAOJIE, FOURTH PLACE
WINNER IN HIS DEBUT SEASON.

LI CHAO
DIVER OF ASIA RACING TEAM,
RANKED 23RD IN HIS DEBUT SEASON.



LI CHAO - RACING AGAINST ONESELF

Christophorus: What attracted you to the championship?

Li: I've always wanted to race here since I was very young. I love to watch racing and I know the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia often runs in partnership with Formula 1 races and is very competitive. So after I had some success with the Polo Cup and Scirocco Cup, I figured it would be great to try myself out here. But it has been quite challenging for me so far. Many other drivers are so much faster than me. I need more practice and more time to improve.

C: What is your biggest challenge so far?

L: I have yet to get the hang of how to handle the car. The 911 GT3 Cup is like no other car I have driven before and I need more time to get intimate with it; after all it is only my first year. And also, the rivals here are so fast and formidable, all first-class drivers. We even have Formula 1 drivers, like Ho-pin Tung, which all makes the race extremely tense and competitive. But that's part of the fun and also why I am here.

C: Any improvement after the first few rounds?

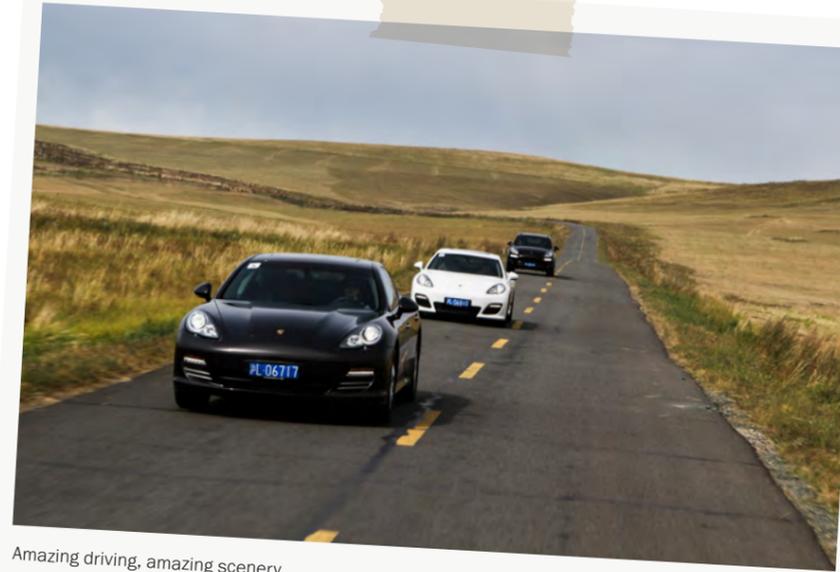
L: Yes, I became mentally stronger. I think racing really put my will to test. I wasn't too bad on the Test Days in Zhuhai. But the first race in Shanghai I finished among the last. When the race began and I had drivers chasing and passing me, I sort of got desperate. My morale was high in the first few laps, but then it collapsed and I lost the will to fight. But after a couple of races I learned the lesson and concentrated on doing my best. That change of mindset is my biggest improvement so far. Now I won't be frustrated when being passed by other drivers. I am determined to push until the last second and I believe the effort will pay off.

C: What is your goal for the debut season and for the long run?

L: I was aiming at the Top 3 in Class B, but now that seems too far away. I begin to see it as a competition with myself, and I will be back in the battle next year, when I will do my best to secure a position on the podium. I hope to bring out my full potential on the racetrack and keep control of my enthusiasm like other gentleman drivers. ●



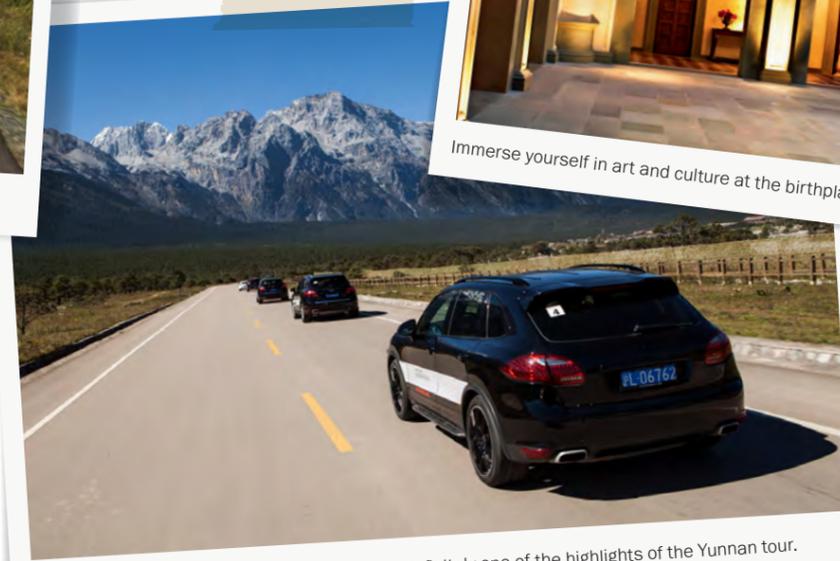
The lofty peaks of limestone in Yangshuo.



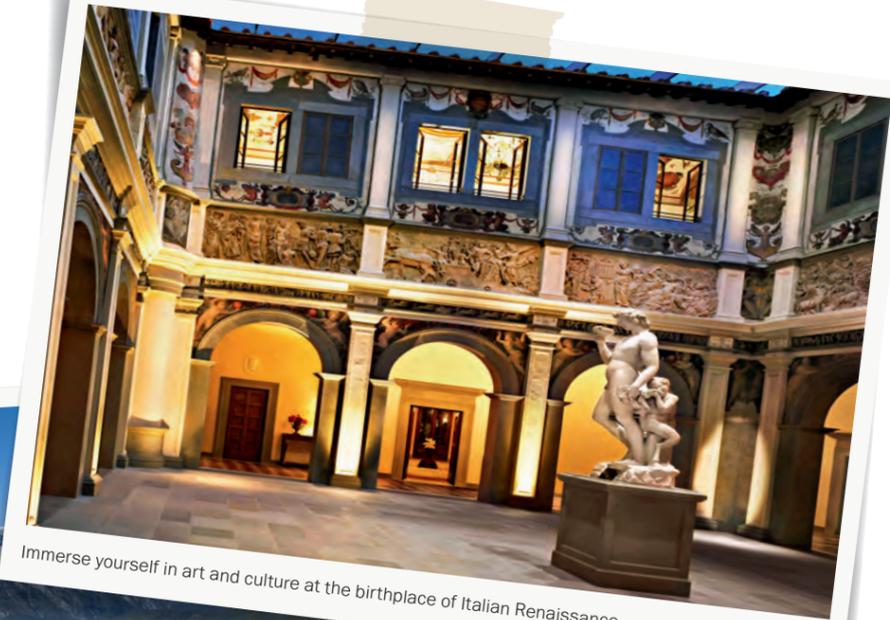
Amazing driving, amazing scenery.



The ancient villages amidst the valleys in Huizhou in spring time.



Driving at the foot of Yulong Snow Mountain is definitely one of the highlights of the Yunnan tour.



Immerse yourself in art and culture at the birthplace of Italian Renaissance.

EVENT OVERVIEW

THE ADVENTURE NEVER STOPS PORSCHE TRAVEL CLUB CHINA 2013

With new tours added to its itinerary for 2013, Porsche Travel Club China continues on a road of discovery.

Text Alexandra Chalmer

From Southern Germany's mystical Black Forest motorway to Andalusia's never-ending mountain roads, Porsche Travel Club China has spared no luxury or thrill since it began conducting its driving excursions. With the added chance to drive a Porsche amidst the spectacular landscapes of Inner Mongolia and Yunnan, Porsche Travel Club China is now introducing trips to the Californian Coastline, Tuscany, Xinjiang, Huizhou and Yangshuo to its list of incredible driving excursions in 2013. With the existing trips to Europe and China remaining a popular fixture on the 2013 schedule, exploring the world in a Porsche has never looked so tempting.

Often hailed as the drive of a lifetime, California State Route 1 looks over the stormy Pacific as it runs round the edge of the Los Angeles mountain range. For those with a passion for driving, this magnificent stretch of road offers an exhilarating drive

on the edge of the ocean between some of nature's most breath-taking sceneries. With the chance to drive a Porsche through the famous Big Sur region, it is the ultimate road trip for those who seek freedom and an open-air feeling on the road.

On its trip to Tuscany, Porsche Travel Club China explores the route where the open-road endurance race, the Mille Miglia, took place and where Porsche became a motorsport legend with the 550 Spyder in 1954. The region is also famed for its Apennine Mountains, which are surrounded by rolling hills and plains, interspersed with winding roads weaving in and out of Italy's quaint countryside villages. And for those with an interest in art and history, Tuscany is also the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. Indeed, Porsche Travel Club China not only seeks out the most beautiful landscapes, but also an eclectic mix of cultural discoveries.

With its own wealth of varied cultures, China is the setting for three new adventures at the helm of a Porsche. Participants now have more opportunity to discover what lies on their doorstep, with tours to Xinjiang, Huizhou and Yangshuo. In Xinjiang, participants will cruise through China's mysterious northwest regions, to the city of Karamay and Lake Kanas located in a valley of the Altai Mountains. In Huizhou, they will visit the place where the famous Merchants achieved great success, drive past the blooming Azaleas unique to Southern China and visit ancient villages replete with local culture. Yangshuo is one of China's most popular destinations, and this tour offers the unique chance to experience the lofty peaks of its limestone hills and unique mix of mountains and rivers from a sleek sports car. They can also head to nearby Longsheng to admire the fascinating architecture of the rice terraces. In response to immensely positive feedback, Porsche Travel

Club China is extending its trip to Yunnan to include the exotic Shangri-La county, which is not only famed for its captivating and beautiful landscapes, but also its mystical and harmonious way of life.

Porsche Travel Club China guarantees an exquisite and specifically tailored journey to discover the beauty of different locations behind the wheel of one of the world's best sports cars. The adventures are limitless. Of course there are many ways to see the world, but none other than in a Porsche.

For further information on our next Porsche Travel Club tours, please visit: www.porsche.cn/travelclub or simply visit your preferred Porsche Centre. ●

CALENDAR 2013*

Huizhou	26 – 30 March
Andalusia	26 April – 1 May
Xinjiang	20 – 25 May / 28 May – 2 June
America	10 – 15 June
Southern Germany	27 June – 2 July
Alpine	10 – 16 July / 17 – 23 July
Tuscany	26 September – 1 October
Inner Mongolia	1 – 5 September / 7 – 11 September
Shangri-La	11 – 16 October / 21 – 26 October
Yangshuo	11 – 15 November / 17 – 21 November

The idyllic morning scene of Mahota farm, Shanghai.



CULTURE & HEALTH

DELIGHT IN A GREEN AND FRESH LIFE

Upon arrival, you first notice the rich smell of the earth and endless rows of bright leafy greens. Children laugh and frolic in the fields, showing off handfuls of freshly picked basil and bright orange carrots. A friendly farmer invites you to grab a basket and wander at your leisure while harvesting seasonal fruits and vegetables for tonight's meal.

Text Ronni Rowland
Photography Lei Gong

No, you did not drive hours outside of town. You are still inside the city limit. Perhaps at Beijing's Little Donkey Farm purchasing fresh pearl eggs from the resident free-range guinea fowl. Or maybe you are planting seeds in the Mahota Farm in Shanghai. These organic farms are just two of the many destinations in China where you can experience chemical-free fields and orchards.

As more people consciously pursue a greener and more responsible lifestyle, organic food becomes the choice of many people. It not only tastes better, but also contains lower levels of chemicals, which is vital for health. "Choosing organic or locally sourced food is not only good for our health as we ensure the soil is sustainable and no pesticides or conventional fertilisers are used on the produce," says Toh Lay Ling, Senior Manager at the Mahota Farm Shanghai where the methods and benefits of organic farming are shared with visitors to the field.

Get closer to nature and enjoy some of its fresh and healthy produce.



Guests learn that farm-fresh cuisine not only is an ingredient of better personal health – it is also a conscious effort towards environmental responsibility.

"Spraying less chemicals on our fruits and vegetables and giving natural feed to farm raised animals is not only good for us but also for the planet – the soil, air, and water," says Kimberly Ashton, Health Coach and Nutrition Consultant at Sprout Lifestyle. "Organic foods are also grown in season, which is how nature intended us to eat – seasonal, fresh, and nutritious."

Conventionally grown food is estimated to travel between 2,410 and 4,830 kilometres before arriving at our door. That's a lot of fossil fuel, a lot of packaging, and a lot of lost flavor along the way. To reduce this road trip, most organic farms offer Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) programmes, in which members pay a fee and receive

seasonal fresh produce delivered to their homes or scheduled locations weekly – a great service for busy urban residents.

"You can tend your crops every weekend or pay the farm to help you," says Ashton. "I have visited farms in Beijing and seen three generations within one family picking vegetables from their plot. Today's modern urban life is filled with fast food and electronics. Spending time with others in nature on an organic farm is something special."

So this spring, take a day off and drive your Porsche to a nearby farm. Pick some fresh vegetables, cook your own warm-hearted meal, and enjoy all of the gifts nature has to offer. Most importantly, seize the opportunity to slow down and simply breathe and enjoy. Or, if you are ready for a bigger slice of urban farming life, rent your own piece of land. ●

A DAY OUT AT THE FARM

GOD'S GRACE FARM, BEIJING

Located in Fangshan District, Beijing. This green farm offers freshly ground cornmeal, homegrown peanuts, and organic produce. Mingle with free-range chickens, ducks, geese, cows, and goats. They also offer cooking facilities and you are welcome to come up with your own dish.

LITTLE DONKEY FARM, BEIJING

Rent your own plot of land and share the satisfying experience of organic farming with family and friends. Crops vary by season and include spinach, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, peanuts, watermelon, and many more. It also offers recreational fishing. Located in Tongzhou District, Beijing.

BIG BUFFALO FARM, CHANGZHOU

Learn from farm staff how to "harvest family health" on your own leased area of farmland. Alternatively, participate in the CSA programme and enjoy home delivery service. Located in Wujin District, Changzhou.

SUNSHINE GROUP, CHENGDU

Experience the season's sweetest harvest with a trip to the Summer Strawberry Festival – and pick your own delicious, juicy strawberries. Located in Xinjin District, Chengdu.

BIOFARM, SHANGHAI

Founded eight years ago, Biofarm is one of the earliest CSA programmes and organic farms in Shanghai. It grows over 120 crops annually, including figs, strawberries, eggplant, squash, and herbs. Visit on weekends and pick your own produce. Located in Pudong District, Shanghai.

THE MAHOTA FARM, SHANGHAI

Features a host of on-site activities such as: planting seeds, harvesting ripe produce, roasting farm fresh vegetables, feeding water fowl, bicycling and river fishing. Call to schedule a day tour. Located in Changning District, Shanghai.

THE MAY FARM, SUZHOU

Join the "Urban Farmer" programme and raise your own crops. Local residents can also conveniently shop online for organic foods from the farm. Located in Canglang District, Suzhou.

Guests toast the opening of the first Porsche Centre in 2013.



PORSCHE CELEBRATES THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW PORSCHE CENTRE IN JIANGSU

On 18 January 2013, Porsche Centre Nantong opened its doors as the first facility to open in 2013 and the 49th nationwide.

As the 4th Centre to open in Jiangsu Province, the new facility signifies the profound popularity and appreciation the marque has enjoyed across the region. The new Porsche Centre stretches over 5,000 square-metre and houses a state-of-the-art showroom and a more than 3,000 square-metre After Sales Service Centre, promising local customers and enthusiasts with a perfect package of premium sports cars and world-class customer services. Mr.

Eric Chang, General Manager of Porsche Centre Nantong stated, "We all look forward to opening a new chapter in the history of Porsche from right here in Nantong as we make it increasingly convenient for our customers to select, customise and take care of their Porsche cars."

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