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Mille & More

From Brescia to Rome and back: Porsche sent five historic sports cars to this year's Mille Miglia.

> By Thorsten Schönfeld Photos by Markus Leser

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Two 550 Spyders in Rome: The one on the left is driven by Lutz Meschke, Porsche board member in charge of finances and IT, along with Roland Löwisch; the one on the right is driven by Bernhard Maier, board member in charge of sales and marketing, together with Larry Webster

The Mille Miglia was run as a long-distance race on public roads in northern Italy from 1927 to 1957. Today, vintage vehicles traverse the thousand miles at a more leisurely pace. But the course is still a challenge for these valuable cars.



Hans Herrmann and Herbert Linge drove the 550 Spyder to a class victory in 1954

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When the boxer engines rumble, the tifosi (Italian for fans) tumble—the Italians love their Mille Miglia Storica, as the event is called in full. Fans line the course night and day, cheering on the classic cars that pass by. In the battle for class victories in olden days, Porsche was a thorn in the flesh of Ferrari.



A 356 Speedster at the race in 1956, with Harald von Saucken at the wheel



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A 356 Coupé in front of the Castel Sant'Angelo: To the right of the car stands two-time Le Mans winner Hans-Joachim Stuck, to the left is Hans-Gerd Bode, Porsche AG's public relations and press director

> Even the Mille Miglia road leads to Rome. Although the course has been slightly changed, the Eternal City remains the midway point of the contest. The course then leads back to Brescia, which is both start and finish, via Siena, Florence, Modena, Parma, and Cremona.



A victory reception at the Zuffenhausen factory in 1954: The 356 and 550 Spyder, the Mille Miglia class winners, with drivers Richard von Frankenberg, Herbert Linge, Hans Herrmann, and Heinrich Sauter, are warmly welcomed by Porsche employees



356 A Coupé: The women's team of Patricia Scholten and Birgit Priemer at a stop in Padua



Porsche parade with victory wreaths in 1954: Two 356s follow Hans Herrmann's 550 Spyder

The Mille Miglia was created after the 1922 Grand Prix of Italy was moved to the new racetrack in Monza. Brescia wanted to maintain its motorsport tradition. A regularity rally was launched in 1977 for cars that had once participated in the race. Around 400 cars entered the event in 2013.