

ALFANATIC



FIAT CHRYSLER AUTOMOBILES



Where Will This Merger Lead?

Will It Affect Alfa Romeo?

The automotive press is full of speculation. We collect some of their thoughts inside.

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New Sales Manager at International Alfa

By Bob Ludwigson

This fall, a new sales manager was appointed to sell Alfa Romeos and Maserati at International Autos, our local Milwaukee Alfa dealer. His name is Jim Walls. Earlier this December I paid him a visit. He was aware of our club, having originally contacted editor Bob Abhalter.

At the meeting I explained the functions of our club, the type of events we sponsor, and how many members we have. As most people in his position he was attentive and polite. He even offered to host an event that we might want to put on. You may remember that 2 years ago I prepared a flyer explaining our club that was to be included in the materials all new car buyers receive. I gave Jim a new set, and he said he would distribute them to the new car buyers.

I certainly wish him well, hope he sells some cars, and sticks around for awhile. 🍀

Alfa Second Highest Auction Sale in 2019

According to Hagerty.com, the 1939 8C2900B Touring Berlinetta sold by French auction house Artcurial last February in Paris, was the second highest sale at auction in 2019. The largely original coupe sold for \$18,563,605. One of five bodied by Carrozzeria Touring, the 8C 2900B was among the finest prewar cars available. The car was sold to a U.S. collector, joining three other Touring Berlinettas in U.S. ownership. The fifth car is owned by the Alfa museum.

The largest 2019 auction sale was the McLaren F1 LM coupe sold in Monterey by RM Sotheby's for \$19,805,000. 🍀



Courtesy Artcurial

2020 Local, Regional, and International Events Calendar

Anything missing? Send dates for events we've missed and we'll include them in the next calendar. email: rabhalter@att.net

- January 2-12 Mecum Auction Kissimmee, Florida
- January 12-19 Scottsdale Auction Week
- February 1 Fuelfed Classic European Swap meet, [The Last Detail](#), Kenilworth, Illinois
- February 8-17 [Chicago Auto Show](#), McCormick Place, Chicago
- February 22-March 1 [Milwaukee Auto Show](#), Wisconsin Center, Milwaukee, WI
- March 5-8 Amelia Island Concours D'Elegance
- May 1-2 AROC-WI New Glarus Hill Climb**
- May 10-20 AROC Goes to Italy Tour
- May 17-19 SVRA Spring Vintage Festival, Road America
- June 12-14 Weathertech Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints, Road America
- June 13-14 Le Mans 24 Hour Race
- June 18-21 NTT Indycar Series Weekend, Road America
- July 20-26 AROC National Convention, Colorado Springs, Colorado**
- July 23-26 Weathertech International Challenge, Road America
- July 30 - August 2 IMSA Road Race Showcase, Road America
- July 24-26 [Concours d'Elegance of America](#), Plymouth, Michigan
- August 6-8 NASCAR Xfinity Series Henry 180, Trans Am, Stadium Trucks, Road America
- August 9 (T) AROC-WI 23d Annual ICAMS Show, Reina Intl. Auto. Brookfield, WI**
- August 16 [Pebble Beach Concours D'Elegance](#), Pebble Beach, California
- August 23 Geneva Concours D'Elegance, Geneva, Illinois
- August 20-30 World Challenge Sportscar Weekend, Road America
- September 10-13 U.S. Vintage Grand Prix, with [Alfas at the Glen](#), Watkins Glen, NY
- September 18-20 Ariens Art on Wheels VSCDA Vintage Weekend, Road America
- October 9-11 SCCA National Championship Runoffs, Road America

Briefs

Alfa’s 2019 Sales 23% lower than 2018

And that’s (relatively) good news for the brand, as fourth quarter sales bettered the third quarter by 635 units. Both Giulias and Stelvios contributed to the increase. Annual sales improved by 4 percentage points relative to third quarter YTD results, and while 2018’s fourth quarter sales trended lower, 2019 sales increased over the previous quarter.

2020 should see continued U.S. success for the brand, and the upcoming introduction of the Tonale small SUV should supply some much needed volume, that is unless the PSA/FCI merger causes too much upset.

Alfa Romeo 2019 Annual Sales Figures

	4th Qtr	YTD	YTD vs 2018
Giulia	2,328	8,704	-24%
Stelvio	2,600	9,444	-22%
4C	17	144	-39%
Total	4,945	18,292	-23%

Kubica Joins Alfa Romeo Racing as Reserve Driver, Brings New Named Sponsor

Robert Kubica has signed on with the Alfa Romeo Racing Formula 1 team as reserve driver for the 2020 season. The veteran driver left Williams at the end of the 2019 season. His responsibilities will include simulator development and young driver development for Sauber Motorsport.

Kubica brings with him sponsorship by the Polish petroleum company PKN Orlen. The team will now be referred to as Alfa Romeo Orlen and the company’s logo will appear prominently on the cars. 🍀



FCA/PSA Merger Speculation

As the historic merger goes forward, the Italian press is rife with speculation on the fate of FCA’s brands, especially Alfa Romeo and Lancia. In a mostly optimistic piece, investireoggi.it (Investing Today) holds forth the possibility of increased investments in both marques.

Lancia, reduced to a single compact model—the Ypsilon—during the Marchionne era, could get an infusion of development dollars from the new boss, CEO Carlos Tavares. Likewise Alfa, whose relaunch stalled, could get funds to revive development of the host of new models put on hold last year by FCA CEO Michael Manley. However the preference is most likely to be for the development of SUVs rather than more sporting models.



According to money.it, two Alfa models already scheduled for discontinuance will not benefit from the merger. The aging Mito and the niche-market 4C apparently don’t fit into Alfa’s plans going forward. Likewise the somewhat quirky Fiat 500L isn’t likely to be renewed once it runs its course.

Manley to Jaguar Land Rover?

According to ClubAlfa.it, the appointment of PSA’s Carlos Tavares as managing director of the newly formed company may result in the departure of FCA CEO Michael Manley.

Rumors have him as a candidate for the CEO of Jaguar Land Rover. Manley has been with FCA since 2000. He made his reputation with leadership of the Jeep and RAM brands before being tapped as CEO upon the passing of Sergio Marchionne.

It was assumed that after the merger he would take a position as the leader of one of the new company’s major brands. Recently however, rumors of his departure have surfaced.

Tonale to Use PSA Platform?

ClubAlfa.it also speculated on the possibility of the Tonale being switched from the Jeep Renegade platform to the French CMP platform and getting a French hybrid powertrain as well, but development may be too far along to allow this change. The shift would undoubtedly delay the small Ute’s introduction past 2021, and Alfa sorely needs the added volume.



Is the Alfa Romeo 6C 2500SS Villa d'Este the most elegant classic car ever?

From ClassicDriver.com, 22 July 2014



As one of the high points in Alfa Romeo's fruitful relationship with coachbuilder Touring, the 6C 2500SS Villa d'Este Coupé epitomises automotive elegance – and that applies beneath the graceful coachwork, too...

The proportion-perfect 6C 2500SS Villa d'Este Coupé was the last in a long line of legendary six-cylinder Alfa Romeos, a breed that had enjoyed fame and competition fortune during the inter-war years. While its developmental roots lay back in the mid-20s (when engineer Vittorio Jano had sired Alfa's celebrated straight-six), the configuration was by no means outdated in the immediate post-War period. In fact, the Tipo 256 – also based on a 6C 2500 chassis – had proven itself still relevant in the late 1930s, performing well at Le Mans, the Mille Miglia, and in the Tripoli-Tobruk.



A Second Christening

Incidentally, the Tipo 256 racing car had also been bodied by Milanese coachbuilder Touring – and in the late 40s, it was invited by Alfa Romeo to be the latest house to style a road-going version, of course using its patented Superleggera construction technique. The platform was the shortest-wheelbase chassis of the 6C

2500; the engine it hosted was a triple-Webered version of the 2443cc straight-six, making it an "SS". Shown at an early Villa d'Este concours (namely the 2nd iteration, at which it won the Coppo d'Oro), the gorgeous coupé was green-lit for a limited-production run – and also given the "Villa d'Este" suffix in celebration of winning the coveted award.



Concours Queen by Name...

Initially planned as a 25-car run for Alfa Romeo's most wealthy clientele, production would ultimately extend beyond 30 cars (including a handful of convertibles): the most generally agreeable figure is 36. Of these, one is owned by the Villa d'Este hotel and displayed as an art piece. Further testament to its elegance should not be needed; but it's there should it be required. Pedigree of its mechanical underpinnings and coachwork notwithstanding, the Villa d'Este Coupé can also claim to be the last hand-built Alfa Romeo – thus representing a pinnacle in the storied marque's timeline. 🍀



Photos: © Steve Hall for Classic Driver

Classifieds

Alfanatic will post brief non-commercial classifieds for members and friends at no charge. Email the [editors](#) to make a submission.

Wanted

Your free classified ads! Let us know.

For Sale

1991 Alfa Romeo Spider with a ZF auto trans,\$8,000. I bought it 3 years ago and put \$12,000 into it as a keeper but health and flexibility prevent me getting in and out. Mechanically good but paint not the best. Located in Green Bay. Call (920) 362-7663 Romeo Raabe.



Gary Tree is trying to clean out his garage. He is parting a **1980 Spider** and has many other parts to sell, too numerous to list. An S2 Windshield, fiberglass bumpers, engine, transmission, door latches, etc. Just ask! Contact Gary at 608-209-2352, or gittreehouse@gmail.com

Ray Petry writes: I have a huge pile of **Alfa Romeo literature** that I move from house to house and I think it is time I shared it with another enthusiast. It includes a metal dealer sign (reproduction) (sold), an Indy car poster from the Alfa power plant years, many copies of

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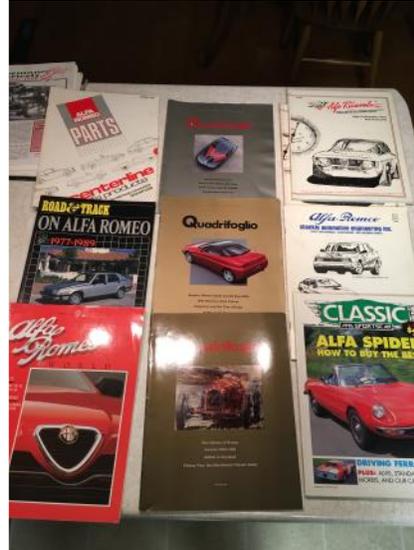
sbcinc@aol.com

the *Alfa Owner* from the 1990s, some copies of *Quadrifoglio*, some parts catalogs, a SPICA fuel injection manual, some Alfa books, and the special 60th anniversary Pininfarina book. I was hoping to sell them as a single lot but may consider breaking it up. See the photos, below.

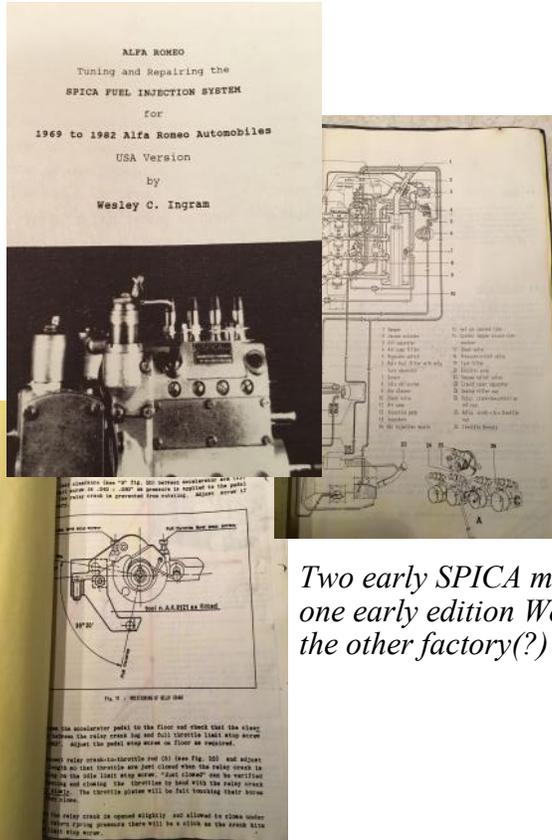
There are more items available. Please inquire. Prices negotiable, especially for the entire lot. Local pickup preferred but can ship if necessary. Alternately can meet in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha area. Contact Ray at flhwelder@gmail.com



Several copies of the Performance Quarterly, published by Alfa Ricambi. Offers accepted.



Three copies of the Quadrifoglio, Alfa's U.S. house organ, \$30 for the lot



Two early SPICA manuals, one early edition Wes Ingram, the other factory(?) \$50 each



Alfa Indy Car race poster in great condition but with junk frame, \$25.00



Alfa Owner, 24 issues, 1991-1993 \$5/copy, \$120/lot

Four Used Cromodora Wheels

for 72-74 Alfa Spider. Surface and finish would benefit from some reconditioning but otherwise ready for that rally! If desired, and strictly at my cost—no adder—I would be willing to get them E-Coated ready for paint refinishing. Make me an offer!



Also, **Rear Bumper** for 1972-74 Spider. Make an offer.

James Huff, 514 Simon Drive, Hartford, WI 53027,
jphuff4@gmail.com

Automotive Fine Art

Jill Reger of Scottsdale, Arizona, is a photographer specializing in classic autos including, but certainly not limited to, Alfa Romeos. Check out her work at www.jillreger.com



This collage includes many of the Alfa photos Jill has in her collection. All are available as single prints. The collage is also available.

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SUBMISSIONS

Do you have a story you'd like to share? Have a restoration in progress or finished? Taken a memorable road trip or have a funny car story? Pictures, lessons learned, maintenance tips? Whatever. The *Alfanatic* is always looking for material to publish. Email your submissions to the editor at rabhalter@att.net and share with your fellow Alfisti.

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