



*AROC - Wisconsin*

*Wishes All Alfisti and Their Families a  
Very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year*



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## PHEV Only Power Option for U.S. Tonale

Andrea Malan, [Automotive News Europe](#)

In brief:

- Plug-in only for U.S. Tonale
- Decision driven by tightened emissions standards
- Production limited to 35,000 due to battery supply
- Availability first quarter 2023
- Giulia, Stelvio refresh to follow
- Small SUV for 2024, all-electric car for 2024



BALOCCO, Italy -- Alfa Romeo has dropped plans to sell its Tonale crossover in the U.S. with a 2.0-liter powerful gasoline engine, opting instead to sell only a plug-in hybrid variant of the model.

At Tonale test drive here on Nov. 14, Alfa Romeo CEO Jean-Philippe Imparato said the Tonale would only be sold in the U.S. with the same plug-in hybrid powertrain offered in Europe.

The decision is a U-turn by Imparato, who last year said the Tonale for the U.S. market would have a 256-hp, 2.0-liter turbocharged gasoline engine with a nine-speed automatic transmission coupled with four-wheel drive.

The Tonale's 275-hp plug-in hybrid drivetrain combines a 1.3-liter, four-cylinder 177-hp gasoline engine with a 122-hp (90 kW) electric motor. The electric motor improves the crossover's fuel economy and lowers its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 26-33 grams per km. The Tonale's sister model, the Dodge Hornet, will get the 2.0-liter, non-hybrid engine. The Hornet will also be sold with the same plug-in drivetrain as the Tonale. Both cars are built at the Stellantis factory in Pomigliano, Italy.

## Local, Regional, and International Events Calendar

Something missing? Send dates for events we've missed and we'll include them in the next calendar. email: [rabhalter@att.net](mailto:rabhalter@att.net)

### 2023

January 4-15	Mecum Kissimmee Auction, Kissimmee, Florida
January 21-29	Arizona Auction Week, Scottsdale/Phoenix, Arizona
March 3-5	<a href="#">The Amelia</a> (Concours), Amelia Island, Florida
March 18	12 Hours of Sebring, Sebring, Florida
<b>May 5-6 (T)</b>	<b>Das Kurze Klausenrennen, New Glarus, WI</b>
May 19-21	SVRA Vintage Weekend, Road America
June 2-4	MotoAmerica Superbikes, Road America
<b>June 5-15</b>	<b>AROC Goes to Italy, 6th Annual Tour</b> <a href="http://www.aroc-use.org">www.aroc-use.org</a>
June 10-11	24 Hours of Le Mans Centenary Race
June 15-18	NTT Indycar Series, Road America
<b>June 17-20</b>	<b>AROC-USA Pre-Convention Tour, Asheville, NC</b>
<b>June 21-25</b>	<b>Alfa del Piemonte, AROC National Convention, Concord, NC</b>
June 23-25	SCCA Chicago Region June Sprints, Road America
July 7-9	TransAm Speed Tour, Road America
July 13-16	WeatherTech International Challenge, Road America
July 27-29	NASCAR Xfinity Series, Road America
Aug 3-6	IMSA Sportscar Weekend, Road America
Aug 18-20	Fanatec GT World Challenge, Road America
Aug 20	Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance
Aug 27	<a href="#">Geneva Concours d'Elegance</a> , Geneva, Illinois
Sept 15-17	Ariens Art on Wheels (VSCDA), Road America

An Alfa Romeo spokesperson said the reason the brand has now decided to sell only the plug-in Tonale in the U.S. was mainly because of the need to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, especially in the so-called CARB states. These are the states that follow the strict emission rules being gradually introduced by California.

According to California's proposed Advanced Clean Cars II Regulations, introduced in August 2022 and waiting for final approval, the share of zero-CO<sub>2</sub> emission vehicles for each automaker (including plug-ins) will have to grow to 35 percent in 2026 and increase to 100 percent in 2035.

Alfa Romeo started taking orders for the Tonale plug-in on Nov. 17, with first deliveries in Europe expected in the first quarter of 2023. Shipping to the U.S. will start a few weeks after.



At the Balocco event, Imparato said the Tonale plug-in powertrain “is not just another powertrain; it’s an existential need.” Imparato said the plug-in Tonale, Alfa’s first such model, will reduce the brand’s average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40 percent. It will also enable the Tonale to boost sales in western and northern European markets such as Germany, France, the Netherlands and Norway where plug-ins are popular.

Imparato declined to give sales forecasts for the Tonale. In February, he said that Tonale sales could reach up to 80,000 a year. The Tonale is already on sale in most European countries with two gasoline mild-hybrid drivetrains and one diesel variant. According to Dataforce, 4,889 units were sold through September. Imparato said Alfa Romeo has received 35,000 orders in Europe for the mild-hybrid variants. Alfa Romeo avoided a fast production ramp-up to get maximum quality from the start, he added. The Pomigliano plant currently builds 4,000 Tonales per month.

Sales of the Tonale plug-in next year will be capped

by limited availability of batteries. Alfa will only receive 35,000 batteries from Chinese battery maker CATL next year, Imparato said, adding; “We might be able to sell the whole 2023 production in a few months.”

Imparato said he is confident Alfa Romeo will close the year with an overall order portfolio of six months’ production. “Shipments in 2022 will be 20 percent higher than in 2021,” he said. According to FCA Italy documents, Alfa Romeo production was just under 45,000 units in 2021. Imparato said the Tonale would be exported to China starting next year.

He confirmed that the Tonale will be followed next year by a mid-cycle refresh of the Giulia midsize sedan and Stelvio midsize SUV. A small crossover based on the same underpinnings of the recently unveiled Jeep Avenger will follow in 2024. Alfa Romeo’s first all-electric model will be launched in 2025. 🍀

## Alfa Romeo Tops 2022 J.D. Power Sales Satisfaction Survey

AUBURN HILLS, Mich., Nov. 9, 2022 / PRNewswire/ --

Alfa Romeo led the way for luxury marques and all Stellantis brands as the top luxury brand in the J.D. Power 2022 U.S. Sales Satisfaction Index (SSI) Study™.

The iconic brand recorded the greatest climb in the 14-brand luxury segment, compared with last year's study, with a 25-point rise to a score of 833. Alfa Romeo's eight-place jump from ninth place topped the luxury brand category.

“Quality of our products and customer care are top priorities for Alfa Romeo, and we are genuinely proud to see our efforts have placed the premium brand at number one among luxury brands in the J.D. Power Sales Satisfaction Index,” said Larry Dominique, SVP, head of Alfa Romeo North America. “We are focused on continually improving the overall customer experience of owning an Alfa Romeo, and this is a testament to our intense focus on enhancing the dealership component.” 🍀



## Russ Whitford's Alfa Reunion

From Russ, 10/11/22

I've been having an Alfa Romeo reunion. Yesterday, son Steve Whitford and I picked up the 156 from his friend's shop. The shift linkage was fixed. The poor car has been mostly sitting since we left for our cruise in 2015. But it ran and I got to drive it to storage where it awaits more restoration work.



What a thrill to light it up again. The 156 or "Monza" was Lisa's car for 10 years. It is a 2001 but Alfa quit importing cars in 1995. OK, I'll confess, the Monza is a black market car we were lucky enough to find.

My 166 Alfa reappeared at Reina International. I gave it back to the Reinas when repairs seemed not worth pursuing. Voila! there it was, restored in its



Nuvola (cloud) color changing paint work. Looks like new. Nuvola is also a rare, black market Alfa we were lucky to own.



Last but not least is my 1974 Alfa GTV. Greg, Steve's friend, has done a ton of detail work and touch up. We are hoping to have the mechanicals gone through

this winter to get her back on the road. I loved driving this car but had even more fun racing it at Road America. It has only 34,000 original miles and I've owned it since 1983. Steve has been storing it for many years. Now it is time to breathe life back into this beast.



Sure, these are just cars but I believe machines contain the souls of those who created them. Just imagine the dedication required to design and construct these marvels of human achievement. Then add the adventures they have shared with our lives. It is easy to consider them old friends. Ciao, Alfa Romeo. 🍀

## Alfa Romeo Announces In-house Restoration and Certification Service

From [Hagerty.com](https://www.hagerty.com) October 19, 2012

**Intake:** Alfa Romeo is hopping on the factory-backed classic restoration train with its new program called "Alfa Romeo Classiche." The program will offer a range of services including certificates of origin (which has been available since 2016), certificates of authenticity, and a full restoration service—all in the name of protecting and promoting the brand's history. Restoration services will range from simple diagnosis all the way to complete restoration efforts, undertaken by the experts that care for the Stellantis historical collection in Turin, Italy. To obtain a certificate of authenticity, specialists in Alfa's heritage department will rigorously inspect the car to verify it against production data and technical specifications and ensure that everything is up to snuff. How serious is top brass about this new program? The certification committee is chaired by Jean Philippe Imparato, Alfa's CEO, who had this to say about the new endeavor: "For us, the Alfa Romeo Classiche heritage program aims to enhance our historic automotive heritage by certifying the authenticity of vintage Alfa Romeos and giving new life to marvelous examples that still captivate and excite car enthusiasts around the world."

**Exhaust:** We've seen plenty of companies jump into the factory restoration game in some form or another—from Jaguar, to Fiat, to Nissan, to Porsche, and many more. Some firms, such as Mazda and Toyota, elect to just announce reproductions of certain hard-to-find parts. Alfa's approach seems to mimic that of fellow Italian brand Ferrari, who offers restoration and certification services to help the most discerning collectors know they're buying (and hopefully driving) the best of the best. — Nathan Petroelje 🍀

## Rare Alfa Romeo Worth \$23M Stolen in Dillon County Could Be in North Carolina: \$50,000 Reward Offered

DILLON COUNTY, S.C. (WBTW) (11/10/22)— A rare antique car valued at \$23 million was stolen from a motel in Latta in July, according to authorities and AIG Insurance, which is offering a \$50,000 reward for information that leads to its recovery.

The black two-door 1938 Alfa Romeo 8C 2900 B Lungo Spider with tan interior was last seen on July 25 at the Holiday Inn Express on Cattle Farm Road near Interstate 95 in Latta, AIG investigator Harold Schmidle said Thursday in a news release.

### REWARD

**\$50,000 Reward** for information leading to the recovery of:



**2-Door 1938 Alfa Romeo 8C 2900 B Lungo Spider, Black Exterior, Tan Interior**

Last seen on **July 25, 2022** at the **Holiday Inn Express** of I-95 at 2513 Cattle Farm Road in **Latta, SC**, 29565. Items from the vehicle were found in Lumberton, NC.

The vehicle was being transported by:

**Truck:** 2002 Ford F-350  
White Dually  
License Plate: IL 344949

**Trailer:** 2009 Haulmark  
White tri-axle enclosed trailer  
License Plate: IL 10451OTE

**CONTACT: Detective Sara Albarri - 843-774-1432**

according to flyer from AIG. The truck had an Illinois license plate number the 344949. The trailer also had Illinois plates with the number 10451OTE.

Items from the car were found in Lumberton, according to the flyer.

Dillon County Sheriff's Office detective Sara Albarri told News13 on Thursday that there have been a string of similar trailer thefts in Dillon, and possibly Florence counties. Those thefts included go-karts and other smaller vehicles.

Albarri said investigators think the Alfa Romeo might still be in North Carolina and that whoever took it might not have known exactly what they were stealing. 🍀

According to the website supercars.net, Touring of Milan built only seven of the Lungo Spider models, delivering the first one in May 1938.

At the time it was last seen, the car was being transported in a white 2009 Haulmark trailer being pulled by a white 2002 Ford F-350 dually pickup truck,

## Alfa Romeo Giulia, Stelvio to Skip Hybridization and Switch to EVs

*The Giorgio platform they're built on wasn't engineered for plug-in hybrids.*

By: Adrian Padeanu, [Motor1.com](https://www.motor1.com)

When Alfa Romeo introduced the updated 2023 Giulia and Stelvio in Europe last month, changes were limited to the design and a digital driver's display. A Competizione special series was also announced, but nothing to write home about. There was no mention of any engine tweaks, and now we know why. Head of Product Daniel Guzzafame told Australian magazine Car Expert the automaker has no intentions to electrify the two midsize luxury cars.

Why? Because it would've been too expensive to engineer the Giorgio platform to accommodate a plug-in hybrid powertrain. A mild-hybrid setup using 48V tech would've been technically possible for this mid-cycle revision, but the reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would've been too small to justify the increased asking price.

That brings us to the problems Alfa Romeo is having with both the Giulia sedan and Stelvio SUV since the two cars are becoming out of reach for more and more people in the European Union. Increasingly higher taxes on pollution cars are forcing customers in EU countries to consider other models: "In certain markets now, you can not deliver a car [that emits] 200g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>. Most people would not buy it."

Guzzafame went on to say fewer people are buying these vehicles "because there are taxes on it because people are not free to move around in that car anymore." He specifically mentioned France where the Giulia and Stelvio models come with "taxes that are [beyond] what people are wanting to spend."

Consequently, Alfa Romeo will skip hybridizing the Giulia and Stelvio altogether. According to Guzzafame, the next-generation models arriving later this decade will "most probably" have a purely electric powertrain. That makes sense considering Alfa has already pledged to sell only EVs in Europe, North America, and China from 2027. Parent company Stellantis will discontinue the combustion engine in Europe by the end of this decade.

The Giulia and Stelvio won't remain at the top of the lineup forever considering Alfa Romeo is cooking up a larger model scheduled to hit the market in 2027. 🍀



## Classifieds

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

### Wanted

Your classified ads! Posted free! Let us know.

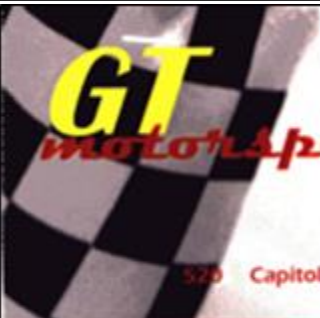
### For Sale

**Jim Thiel** is looking for a new home for his red **1982 Spider**. He's had it since 1989 and is the third owner. The car has traveled a little more than 67,000 miles and has always been garaged during Jim's ownership. The paint is original and the top in good condition, with a clear back window. According to Jim, the tires are in good shape. He says the leather seats and the dash have no cracks. If you're interested, you can contact Jim by email at [jthiel28@wi.rr.com](mailto:jthiel28@wi.rr.com)

**Gary Tree** is still 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 [gjtreehouse@gmail.com](mailto:gjtreehouse@gmail.com)



Thanks to John Chowaniak



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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](mailto:rabhalter@att.net) and share with your fellow Alfisti.

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