

NAPLES CHAPTER

MOTORE D'ART

25



SILENT *SPEED*

The Ferrari Ellettrica delivers speed, desire, and silence!

THE 275S

The 1950 Ferrari 275 S—one of only two built—debuted Lampredi's new V12 at the Mille Miglia, serving as the raw, experimental prototype that shaped Ferrari's dominant early-1950s sports racers.

WILSON
JOHNSON

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Naples Chapter Partners Talk

▼ 30 ABOVE 25

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12 STRAIGHT AT DAYTONA: 27
ENDURANCE, TRADITION
& THE FCA SPIRIT AT THE
ROLEX24

A twelve-year Daytona tradition, this year's Rolex 24 united 120 FCA members in a weekend of endurance racing, camaraderie, and pure Ferrari spirit.

Phil Wantoch invites us to ride along with him at the Rolex24 in Daytona, FL.

BEYOND THE GATES OF 31
FERRARI: A PILGRIMAGE
TO MARANELLO
Always difficult to leave Naples except when your destination is Tuscany

Bob Ross takes us along his journey to Tuscany and the Ferrari experience

FRANCOIS SICARD 35
**Renowned Ferrari mechanic/
race engineer/restorer**
FCA 2026 National Meet
Monticello, New York
June 28 - July 1

- Master Mechanic Behind Ferrari's Early Racing Success
- Trusted by Legendary Drivers
- A Craftsman of the Pre-Digital Era
- First Mechanic Ever Featured at an FCA Annual Meet



Unleash Your Journey

NAPLES CHAPTER 01
EVENTS

A list of upcoming events happening in your Naples Chapter

PRESIDENT'S NOTE 02

FCA Naples Reboot

- important season of growth/renewal
- major changes BOD structure
- stronger partnership relationships
- clear mission: deliver outstanding events, strong community ties, thriving Naples Chapter

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How the Florida Region guides Chapters

From the desk of a former FL RD

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Rebooted Naples Chapter launch in 2025

The Welcome back Paella Party and 2025 Naples Chapter holiday party were huge successes

Happy Birthday Enzo Party at Ultimate Garages an incredible unforgettable event

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Ferrari Elettrica

- Nam antiquo nec
- Rem amet augue romano
- Justo unde oppressorcauae
- Risus meritorum

ELECTRIC 18
PRANCERS

Ferrari Elettrica

- Nam antiquo nec
- Rem amet augue romano
- Justo unde oppressorcauae
- Risus meritorum

03 SEGMENTO

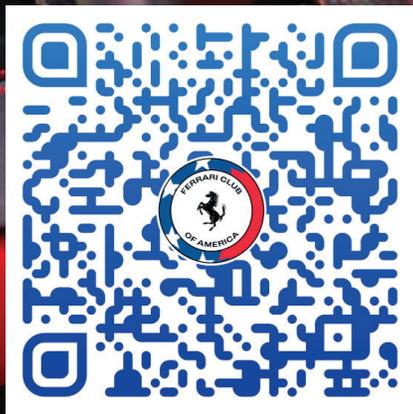
Il Vintage è vintage

VINTAGE IS VINTAGE 21
BUT VINTAGE
FERRARI IS LOVE

The 275S

- First Ferrari to Use a V12 Derived from Lampredi's Racing Program
- Debut at the 1950 Mille Miglia
- A Crucial Development Step Toward the 340 America and Future Sports Racers
- Notorious for Its Raw, Unrefined Power

WHAT DOES
YOUR
WEEKEND DRIVE
LOOK LIKE?



The Naples Chapter of the Ferrari Club of America invites you along for the ride of your life!



NAPLES CHAPTER EVENTS

Events list at time of distribution

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

WINTER
2026

Sponsored by

NUMERO
01



As we crossed the finish line of 2025 and accelerated into the promise of 2026, our Naples Chapter entered an important season of growth and renewal.

The new year brought major changes in the structure of our

Board of Directors. This evolution reflects our commitment to building a stronger, more engaged, and more dynamic Ferrari Club community here in Southwest Florida.

Our previous President, and now Vice President, Dennis Flint, who also served as Florida Regional Director for four years, has brought tremendous experience, valued relationships, and common sense to this effort. Dennis undertook the monumental task of building a refreshed board, expanding leadership, and assigning clear roles and responsibilities to each director. Many of our new board members have not previously served in club leadership positions, making this a significant

achievement and an exciting opportunity for the future.

We are also proud of the tremendous success we have already achieved in strengthening our sponsorship relationships. These partnerships enhance our events, broaden our reach, and bring added value to our members.

Just as importantly, we have already enjoyed several very successful events that brought members together and reminded us of what makes this club so special - exceptional cars, great friendships, and unforgettable experiences.

As we move forward into 2026, our mission remains clear: to deliver outstanding events, strengthen community ties, and ensure that the Naples Chapter continues to thrive.

Thank you for being part of this journey. The road ahead is bright, and we look forward to sharing another unforgettable year with you.

Naples Chapter President

FLORIDA REGION SPOTLIGHT

A Brief History of the Ferrari Club of America, the Florida Region, and the Naples Chapter

The Ferrari Club of America (FCA) began in 1965, when a small circle of devoted Ferrari owners recognized the need for a national community—one that celebrated the marque's engineering brilliance, racing pedigree, and artisanal craftsmanship. At the time, Ferrari ownership in the United States was uncommon, and opportunities for enthusiasts to gather, exchange technical insights, or participate in organized events were limited. The FCA filled that void, creating a network built on camaraderie, responsible enjoyment of the cars, and preservation of Ferrari's storied heritage.

From those modest beginnings, the FCA evolved into a nationwide organization with a robust calendar of driving events, concours competitions, technical seminars, social gatherings, and charitable initiatives. Today, it stands as

one of the world's largest and most respected single-marque automotive clubs, representing approximately 7,500 members across 15 regions and 60 chapters.

The Florida Region and the Naples Chapter



Naples Chapter

Within this national structure, the Florida Region is one of the most active, home to roughly 1,200 members statewide. The Naples Chapter—now 260 members strong—has become one of the largest and most vibrant chapters in the entire FCA.

The Ferrari Club of Naples traces its roots to the early 2000s, when local enthusiasts Kim Pemberton and Steve Cantera began organizing informal gatherings of Ferrari owners. The group first met on Third Avenue in downtown Naples before moving to Fifth Avenue, where the events quickly grew in size and visibility.

In 2010, following Kim Pemberton's resignation, longtime FCA member Steve Cantera assumed full leadership of the Naples group. Under his guidance, the club formally affiliated with the Ferrari Club of America and officially joined

the Florida Region.

Around 2014, dedicated member Tom O’Riordan became President of the Naples Chapter, with Dennis Flint serving as Vice President. O’Riordan later advanced to the role of FCA Regional Director, where he spearheaded the decentralization of the Florida Region into individual chapters—an initiative designed to strengthen local engagement and support.

Dennis Flint succeeded O’Riordan as Regional Director and continued the chapter-expansion effort. Today, the Florida Region encompasses nine chapters across Florida and Puerto Rico, reflecting the club’s remarkable growth and organizational evolution.

Leadership and Regional Support

Because the FCA is a volunteer-driven organization with term limits, leadership transitions can occasionally present challenges. In Florida, the Regional Director plays a crucial role in ensuring continuity and supporting chapter operations. Responsibilities include assisting with organizational needs, helping resolve disputes when necessary, reconstituting chapter boards when required, conducting monthly board meetings, and representing the region at the FCA’s national

convention.

These monthly meetings provide an essential forum for chapter presidents to share ideas, discuss challenges, and learn from one



another—strengthening the region as a whole and ensuring that every chapter, including Naples, continues to thrive.



photo credit- Phil Trigiani



YOUR NAPLES BOARD



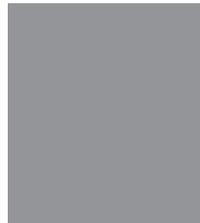
Bob Ross
president



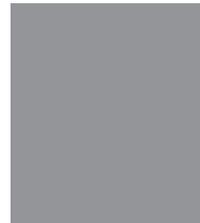
Dennis Flint
vice-president



Bruce Foster
treasurer



Phil Wantoch
secretary



Phil Trigiani
events chair



Allman Todd
partnership chair



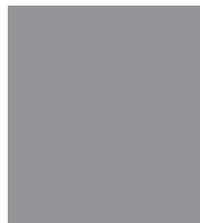
Chris Rabkin
i.t. chair



Peggy David
communications
chair



Emily Rose
events co-chair
dealer liasion



Krysta Sylvester
events co-chair



Steve Gierszewski
membership chair

FULL

2 HALF

1 HALF + 2 QUARTER

4 QUARTERS

BLED OR NOT



PAST CHAPTER EVENTS

WELCOME BACK TIFOSI PAELLA FEST

A fantastic morning filled with Ferraris, paella, and pure Naples sunshine set the tone for one of our most memorable gatherings yet, and it was "FIRE". The Wing South fly-in community—tucked into the heart of South Naples—opened its gates to us with genuine warmth, wide-open runways, and the kind of hospitality you only find in a place built by people who love machines, motion, and community. A delicious lunch consisting of Paella and select beverages was served, and the Paella was cooked on site by Chef Paul Schmidgall of Fire and Rice Paella.

Members rolled in to the sight of gleaming Ferraris lined up beside aircraft hangars, creating a scene that felt straight out of an Italian motorsport postcard. As conversations sparked and paella simmered, the morning was capped by a private flyover arranged just for our club—a gesture that reminded everyone why Naples is such a special place to be a Ferrari owner.

And because every great story needs a twist, a Hemi-powered, NOS-injected Cobra rumbled into the mix, proving that when the Naples Chapter gathers, enthusiasts of all stripes want to be part of the moment. No other club receives a welcome like this. This is the Ferrari Club of Naples—vibrant, connected, and always raising the bar for unforgettable experiences. With so many incredible events on the horizon, this morning was just the beginning. The best drives, meals, and memories are still ahead.

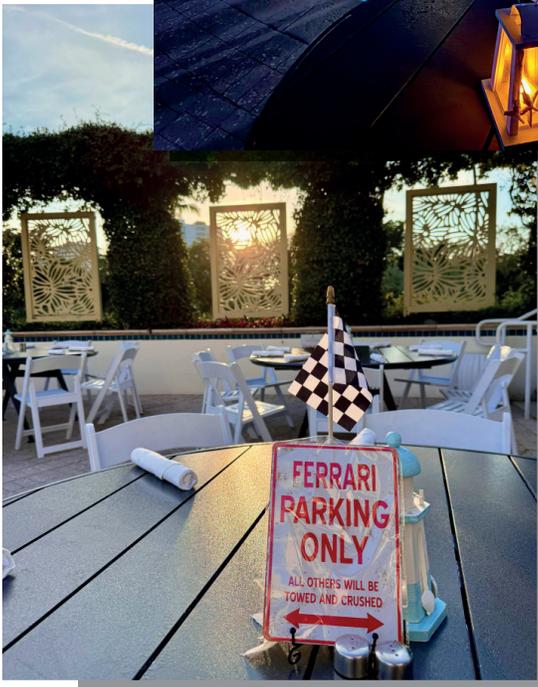


2025 Holiday Party

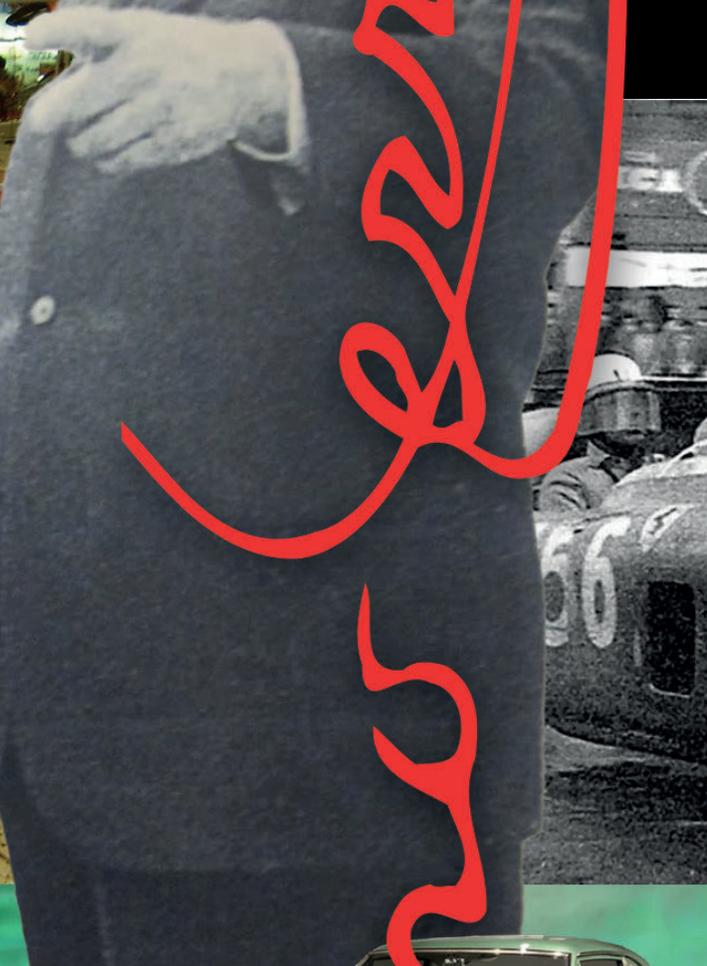
A hundred people gathered at the Naples Grande Pool Side Patio, all united by a shared passion for Ferrari and the vibrant community that surrounds it. The Christmas Party wasn't just another seasonal event; it became a warm, elegant evening where conversations flowed as easily as the drinks and every table seemed to spark a new connection.

Guests enjoyed exceptional food, festive music, and the unmistakable camaraderie that defines the Ferrari Club of Naples. The open-air setting added a relaxed coastal glow to the night, giving the celebration that signature Naples blend of sophistication and ease.

Our sincere thanks go to The Naples Grande Resort for hosting us with such care and attention to detail. Their hospitality elevated the entire experience and helped create a night our members will remember. If you've ever wondered what it feels like to be part of a club that blends passion, friendship, and unforgettable moments, consider this your invitation. Join the Ferrari Club of Naples and discover events that stay with you long after the holidays fade.



View more event photos
at FCA-Naples.com



Happy Birthday Enzo!

This year, the Naples Chapter gathered at the remarkable Ultimate Garages to celebrate Enzo Ferrari's birthday, transforming the venue into an evocative tribute to the man whose vision reshaped automotive history. Poignant red uplighting washed across the polished floors and towering displays, casting a warm, theatrical glow that immediately set the tone for an evening of reverence and celebration.



Throughout the space, curated video installations traced Enzo's life, philosophy, and enduring influence. These moving visual narratives played alongside a lineup of special Ferraris positioned like sculptural centerpieces, each one contributing to the sense of artistry and heritage that

defines the marque.

Adding to the creative energy of the evening, a live artist worked in real time, capturing the atmosphere with bold, expressive strokes. Guests enjoyed food and wine intentionally selected and paired to reflect Enzo's own palate, creating a sensory connection that blended culinary craft with the legacy of the man himself.



100 members of the Naples Chapter came together for this immersive celebration—an evening that seamlessly blended history, artistry, and community. It was a gathering that honored Enzo Ferrari not only through the cars he inspired, but through the shared passion that continues to bring our chapter together.



NEAPOLITAN ROAD *adventures*

A day of Memories, Speed & *Great BBQ*

The board worked together to create a strategy for a clean, easy drive from the Pine Ridge area in Naples out to Big Papa's Country Kitchen in what we lovingly call North Naples. A simple map was sent to members, while a few of us wrangled in sign-ups, waivers and the board purchased walkie-talkies for quick ease-of-communication while driving.

Once everyone arrived at the meeting point, walkies were dispersed evenly throughout

the group, hands were shook and the drive commenced. YouTube videos surfaced later from a few admiring onlookers at the line of our 15 plus vehicles idling at an intersection.

Though we hit some of the usual "seasonal" traffic that Naples is known for, with the help of the walkies, we were able to call out to each other, slow down or speed up, so that we all arrived nearly together.

We were greeted with smiles and photos, along with a few other Ferrari members who met us there - filing in one by one to create an impressive line of (mostly) Italian thoroughbreds against the lush treeline.

Within the display were an F12 Berlinetta, 812 Superfast, F8 Tributo, SF90, 488 Coupe & Spiders, F430 Spider, a 360, Portofinos, 296GTB's, a California and even a Maserati MC20. Only to be contrasted with a little American Muscle as well - a Plum Crazy Last Call Challenger.

Big Papa greeted us all with a smile, opening up

method of cutting & preparing them), succulent brisket and of course - homemade cornbread paired with a delectable cobbler dessert. Many of us went back for seconds and thirds, exclaiming we couldn't pick which BBQ treat was our favorite.

It's a good thing our vehicles had an abundance of horsepower - because we all left a little heavier that day with full bellies and even bigger smiles. "This was one for the books." a member was overheard saying. "Oh yes," one responded, "I can't wait to come back." - and that, we can all agree to!



his property while displaying plenty of trophies & flags, alongside unique collector items like bottle openers, tea kettles, cast iron skillets, license plates and comical road signs from what we can only assume are from around the world during his award-winning adventures.

The Twisted Trotter was also set up, providing delicious, "buzz"-worthy beverages while light appetizers & snacks were provided before the Big BBQ fun. Members and their guests mingled and laughed - connected and re-connected - waiting patiently for their taste of the award winning BBQ we'd all heard so much about.

Big Papa announced everything was ready, including tender ribs (which he showed us his





Mecum Kissimmee 2026



Local Naples Ferrari club members, Jerry and Peggy David, made the trek up to Kissimmee for the Mecum Auction on January 17th, 2026. Little did they know that the Mecum Kissimmee auction would set a record for the most successful auction in collector car history bringing in just over \$441 million in total sales.

The biggest driver of that success was the Bachman Ferrari Collection. Totaling 46 Ferraris, mostly in yellow, the collection brought in roughly \$125 million in the course of two hours unreserved! If you are hearing about this for the first time or whether you were there in person or caught it streaming; here are a few highlights of the Bachman Ferrari Collection auction:

2003 Ferrari Enzo: 649 miles. 1 of 127 Enzos produced for the U.S. Purchased new and custom designed in factory by Phil Bachman. Sold for \$17,875,000

1995 Ferrari F50: 252 miles. 1 of 56 F50s produced for the U.S. Previously owned by professional golfer Ian Poulter and acquired by Phil Bachman. Sold for \$12,210,000

2017 Ferrari LaFerrari Aperta: 96 miles. 1 of 210 produced. Purchased new and custom designed in factory by Phil Bachman. Sold for \$11,000,000

1985 Ferrari 288 GTO: 1,248 miles. 1 of 272 produced. Purchased new by Phil Bachman in 1985. Sold for \$8,525,000

Besides the Bachman Collection, another very special Ferrari took center stage. An original, unrestored 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO Bianco Speciale. One of 36 Ferrari GTOs produced, the distinction of this Ferrari is that it is the ONLY factory produced 250 GTO in Bianco. This car has a storied pedigree of being professionally raced by Graham Hill, Jack Sears, Mike Parkes, Roy Salvadori, Mike MacDowel, Mike Salmon and Richie Ginther.

The 250 GTO racing continued under the Jon Shirley Collection and competed in Ferrari Challenge racing events, 250 GTO Anniversary tours as well as the Goodwood Revival in England.

Quoting Chelsey Hinsenkamp from Mecum “The truest devotees of the Ferrari line see much more than a car when they look at one of the Italian maker’s many stunning machines. They see a vessel of engineering excellence, one that contains the fascinating history of the many brilliant minds and talented individuals who’ve made the Ferrari brand what it is today—from the dreamers and designers to the doers and the drivers. They see something not just worthy of owning and piloting, but of honoring, preserving and celebrating. To these awakened individuals, these aren’t just a line of Prancing Horses; they are thoroughbred beauties that belong among Longines World’s Best”



Reflecting after the event, Jerry David expressed “Being at Mecum and seeing all the beautiful Ferraris up close and personal was an amazing experience. Then being there as they crossed the stage, witnessing the bidding and watching the gavel drop was like being part of history”

Peggy added “The temptation to raise our paddle was real but we came home empty handed, maybe next year?!”



Where Ferrari Owners Trust Their Finish

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02: DETAIL BEYOND THE LIMITS **New materials for lux
and shine**

CUTTING-EDGE DETAIL MATERIALS

UPTUR AUDAE SEDIAT

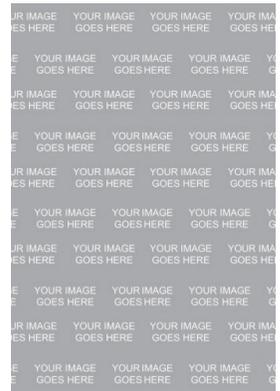
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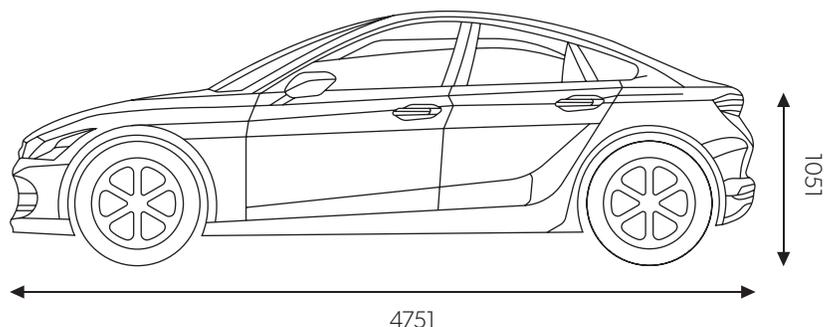
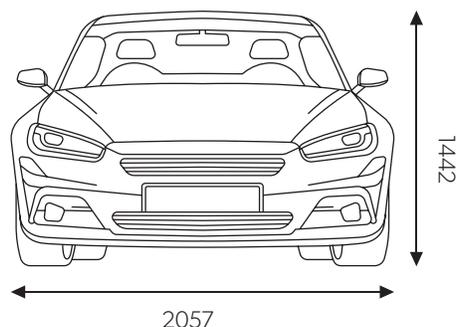
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**"Aquatemodit,
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Um facest"**



02: INSIGHTS FROM TECHNICIANS *Beyond the limits materials that hold the road and attention*

TECH TALKS

UPTUR AUDAE SEDIAT

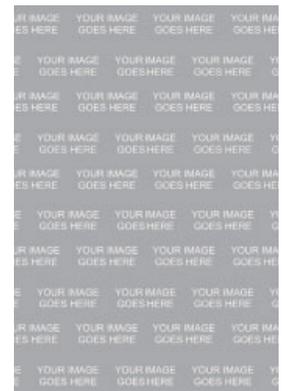
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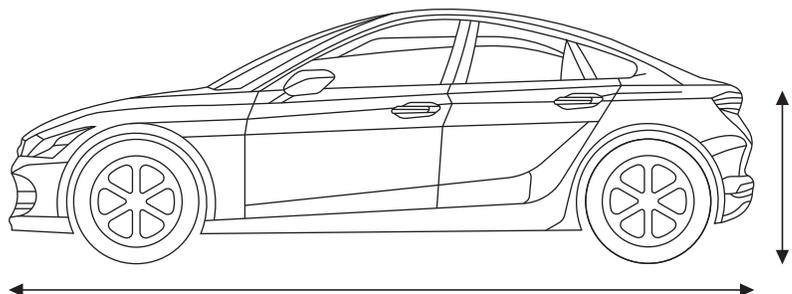
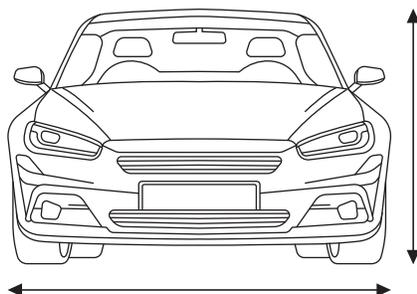
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FERRARI ELLETRICA

ELECTRIC

PRANCERS

FERRARI COULD DISRUPT ELECTRIC CARS WITH THIS SURPRISING PATENT

In a world where technological innovation is the key to dominance in the automotive sector, Ferrari once again stands out from the crowd. After the successful launch of its PHEV models, which are selling extremely well, the Prancing Horse brand could surprise with its 100 % electric technology.

Indeed, according to a revelation by CarBuzz, Ferrari has filed a patent in the USA that could revolutionize electric supercars. The patent describes the use of electric motors integrated into wheel hubs a radically different approach to what we know today.

Motors in the wheel hubs seem to be the best way to accommodate both drive units and battery packs, while retaining the feel of a mid-engined car, a feature promised by Ferrari for its future electric vehicles.

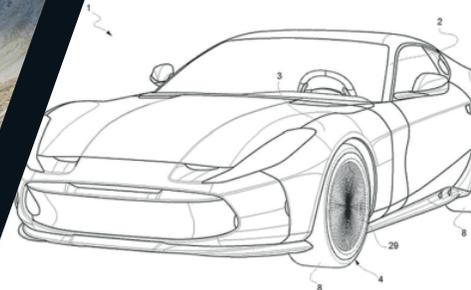
motor-electric-ferrari

At a time when many fear the end of combustion-powered supercars, Ferrari wants to demonstrate that electric supercars open up a world of new possibilities. And innovation isn't limited to engine layout. About a year ago, Ferrari also filed a patent for an innovative, sensor-rich feedback system for electric vehicles. It is designed to help drivers get better feedback from the car during sporty driving.

Like Porsche, Lamborghini and Maserati, Ferrari could have presented an electric vehicle by now, but it's clear that this is not the case. Maranello wants to ensure that its technology delivers the same sensations as combustion-powered models. It'll be a few more years before we see an all-electric Ferrari, but when it does arrive, it will be surprising.



John Doe
DESIGN CHIEF





Ferrari of Naples

INVENTORY - SPECIAL CARS - EVENTS

VINTAGE IS VINTAGE
BUT VINTAGE FERRARI IS LOVE

FERRARI

275 S

V12
ENGINE

3322.34cc
TOTAL DISPLACEMENT

199kW
MAX PWR @ 7200RPM

240KM/HR
TOP SPEED

The big new Lampredi engine got its first outing in the 275 S sports car at 3322 cc. Two models were built with Touring barchetta bodies and took part in the Mille Miglia held in April 1950. During the race, however, they both encountered transmission difficulties due to the very powerful engine they were mounted with.

Nonetheless, the engine immediately showed its potential when it was next used in the single-seater for it had really been designed in the first place. In fact, it took Ascari home in fifth position in the Belgian Grand Prix on June 18 of the same year.

Mechanical Specs:

Engine Type
front, longitudinal 60° V12
Bore/stroke: 72 x 68mm
Unitary displacement :276.86cc
Total displacement: 3322.34cc
Compression ratio: 8 : 1
Maximum power: 199 kW (270 hp)
at 7200 rpm
Power per litre: 81CV/l
Maximum torque

-
Valve actuation: single overhead camshaft per bank, two valves per cylinder
Fuel feed: three Weber 40 DCF carburetors
Ignition: single spark plug per cylinder, two coils
Lubrication: wet sump
Clutch: multi-plate



*"When Ferrari wins, the whole of Italy wins."
-Enzo Ferrari*



Because a Ferrari



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AVAILABLE NOW:

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belongs above it all.



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THE FACE OF LUXURY AUTOMOTIVE STORAGE

Ultimate Garages' mission is to deliver unwavering peace of mind to clients away from their prized luxury and exotic automobiles and assure those cars will be kept safe from Southwest Florida's oftentimes tumultuous climate. While many individuals unfortunately lost their vehicles during Hurricane Ian, every vehicle stored with Ultimate Garages was unscathed.

With locations in Naples and Bonita Springs, Ultimate Garages offers more than 80,000 square feet of state-of-the-art climate controlled storage space, which includes security monitoring and attentive staff to ensure proper storage maintenance of every vehicle in their care. The building structure is hurricane-rated and elevated 30 feet above sea level to offer the best protection from any element, from elevated humidity to a catastrophic category 5 hurricane. The company also brings their storage maintenance services to your home or private garage for extra concierge service.

While exotic vehicle storage is the flagship service of Ultimate Garages, the company is multifaceted and offers detailing services, event venue rentals, exclusive car condominiums for the avid enthusiast, racing simulators and an art gallery. In season, the facility is open to the public during their morning Cars and Coffee events the second Saturday of each month.



Ultimate Garages
3201 Terrace Ave., Naples, FL 34104
(239) 682-6599 | naplesultimategarages.com

Ultimate Garages Naples: Where Automotive Passion Meets Architectural Artistry

In a city defined by refined taste, coastal beauty, and lifestyles shaped by excellence, Naples offers no shortage of locations, parcels of real estate, or restaurants tending to those who appreciate the extraordinary. Yet even in this landscape of luxury, Ultimate Garages Naples sits at the top of the category of luxury and classic automobile storage. Ultimate Garages is so much more than a storage facility, so much more than a clubhouse, and so much more than an art gallery, it is a purpose-built sanctuary for automotive enthusiasts — a place where engineering brilliance, architectural ambition, and community spirit converge under one roof.

From the moment you arrive, the building an-

nounces itself with a sense of intention. Clean lines, purposeful geometry, **and a modern industrial design on a scale that says, "Southwest Florida, this is a serious place that I can store my priceless automobiles, my artwork, have my man cave filled with my favorite stuff, and a community of individuals of similar status and mind to boot!"** This is not simply a garage, it is a cathedral for beautiful automobiles and artwork with inside space opening into a meticulously curated environment where Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Porsches, McLarens, and other automotive icons are curated with other artwork like sculptures.

Ultimate Garages was conceived with a simple but powerful idea: create a place where collectors could store, maintain, and celebrate their vehicles in a setting worthy of the cars themselves. Naples embraced the concept and today, the facility has become a hub for Southwest Florida's most passionate drivers — a gathering place for owners and their clubs. By supporting charities and community events Ultimate Garages brings

people together through a shared love of automotive excellence.

A Facility Designed for Enthusiasts

What sets Ultimate Garages apart is not just its scale, but its philosophy. The building is engineered around the needs of collectors: climate-controlled storage, advanced security, concierge-level service, and a layout that allows cars to be displayed, accessed, and enjoyed with ease. The result is a space that feels equal parts museum, workshop, and social venue.

The main floor is expansive, with soaring ceilings and polished concrete that reflects the glow of carefully positioned lighting. Vehicles can be arranged with gallery-like spacing, allowing each one to be appreciated individually in an owner's space.

But Ultimate Garages is more than a place to store cars, it is a vibrant community center for automotive and art enthusiasts. The facility regularly hosts club meetings, charity galas, technical seminars, and private events. For the Ferrari Club of Naples, it has become a natural venue that matches the passion and prestige of the marque.

30 Above: Naples' Most Exclusive Private Automotive Space

Perched above the main gallery is one of Naples' most unique and sought after spaces: 30 Above, a private, members only lounge, event venue, and secure automobile storage space elevating the Ultimate Garages experience to an entirely new level.

30 Above is not simply upstairs; it is a fully realized environment for the secure storage of fine automobiles. The name reflects both its physical position and its lofty spirit — a place "above" the ordinary, where the automotive storage world meets the automobile social world in perfect harmony.

For the Ferrari Club of Naples, Ultimate Garages has become a signature venue and has been host to many of the club's special celebrations — including this year's annual Enzo Ferrari Birthday event. James Buonavolonta, M.D., Founder & CEO Ultimate Garages really knows how to outfit the space to deliver a stellar celebration that presented this Enzo Ferrari celebration with the perfect blend of elegance, acoustics, video and

atmosphere. Jim's ability to pair fine dining and curated experiences with a panoramic view of extraordinary curated Ferraris brought about a sense of occasion that is impossible to replicate elsewhere.

A Vision for the Future

As Naples continues to grow, so too does its appetite for world class experiences. Ultimate Garages and 30 Above are perfectly positioned to meet that demand. Their combination of architectural ambition, curated luxury, and community driven programming has set a new standard for what an automotive facility can be.

Looking ahead, the venue is poised to play an even larger role in the club's event landscape, and with increasing interest from collectors, clubs, and event organizers, *Ultimate Garages is not just a place to store cars, but a landmark — a destination that embodies the spirit of Automotive Excellence in Naples: refined, forward-thinking, and passionately engaged with the things that bring joy to the sense of those who love automobiles, craftsmanship, and community; because there is simply nothing else that compares to it.*



AT DAYTONA: ENDURANCE, TRADITION & THE FCA SPIRIT AT THE ROLEX24

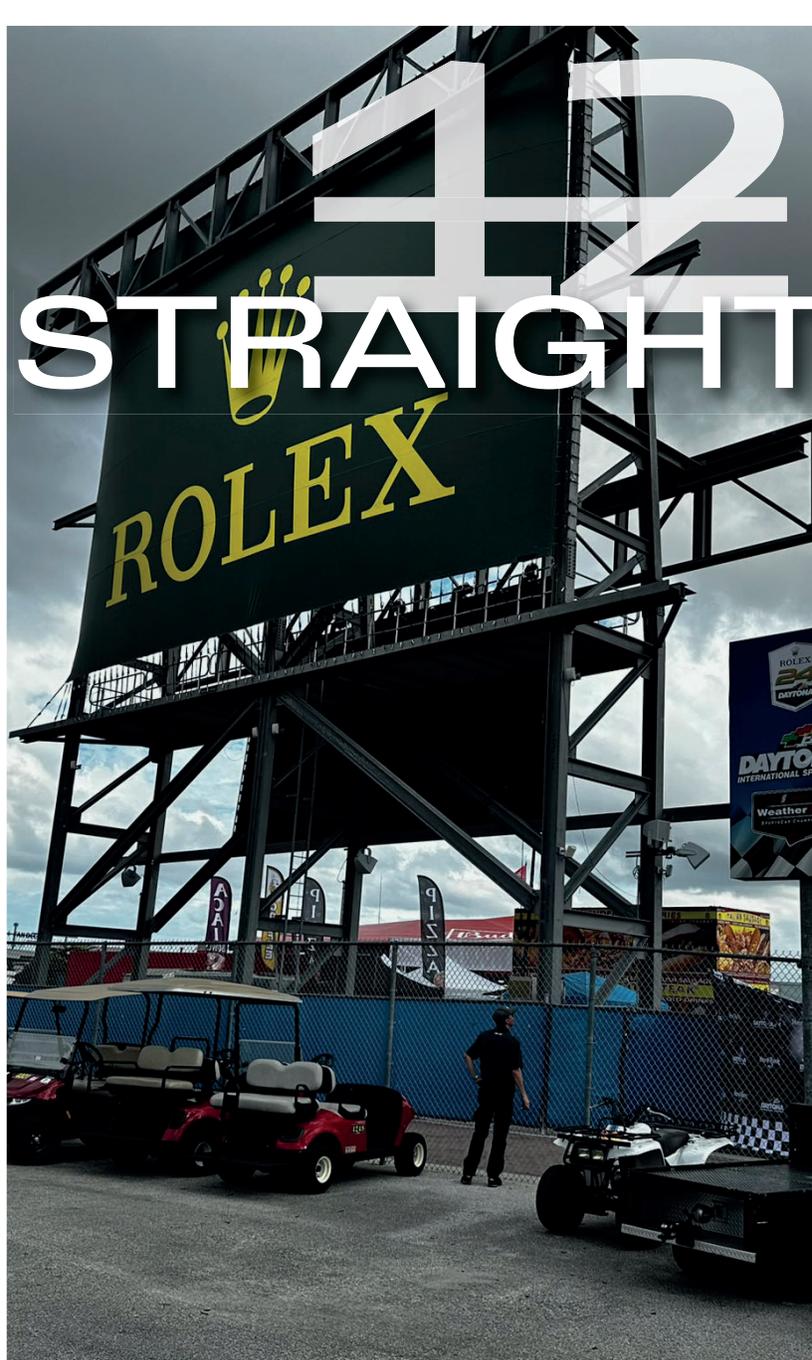
By Phil Wantoch

THERE ARE CERTAIN DATES THAT LIVE ON THE CALENDAR IN PERMANENT INK. FOR ME, THE LAST WEEKEND OF JANUARY IS ONE OF THEM.

This year marked my twelfth consecutive pilgrimage to the Rolex 24 at Daytona International Speedway—a tradition that has evolved from a racing weekend into something far more meaningful: a celebration of endurance, camaraderie, and the unmistakable sound of Ferrari at full song.

Twelve years in a row offers perspective. You begin to see the rhythms of the race differently. The pre-dawn chill that settles over the infield. The way headlights carve through the Florida darkness at 3 a.m. The emotional lift as the sun rises over the banking and the final hours begin to compress strategy, fatigue, and opportunity into one decisive crescendo. Endurance racing is not just about speed—it is about resilience, precision, and belief.

This year, 120 FCA members from across the country (and Puerto Rico) gathered to experience it together from our private suite in the Rolex Lounge. Elevated above the front stretch, the suite offered an extraordinary vantage point—not just of the racing line into Turn 1, but of the shared passion that defines our club. Throughout the 24 hours, members rotated through stints of spectating, exploring the infield,

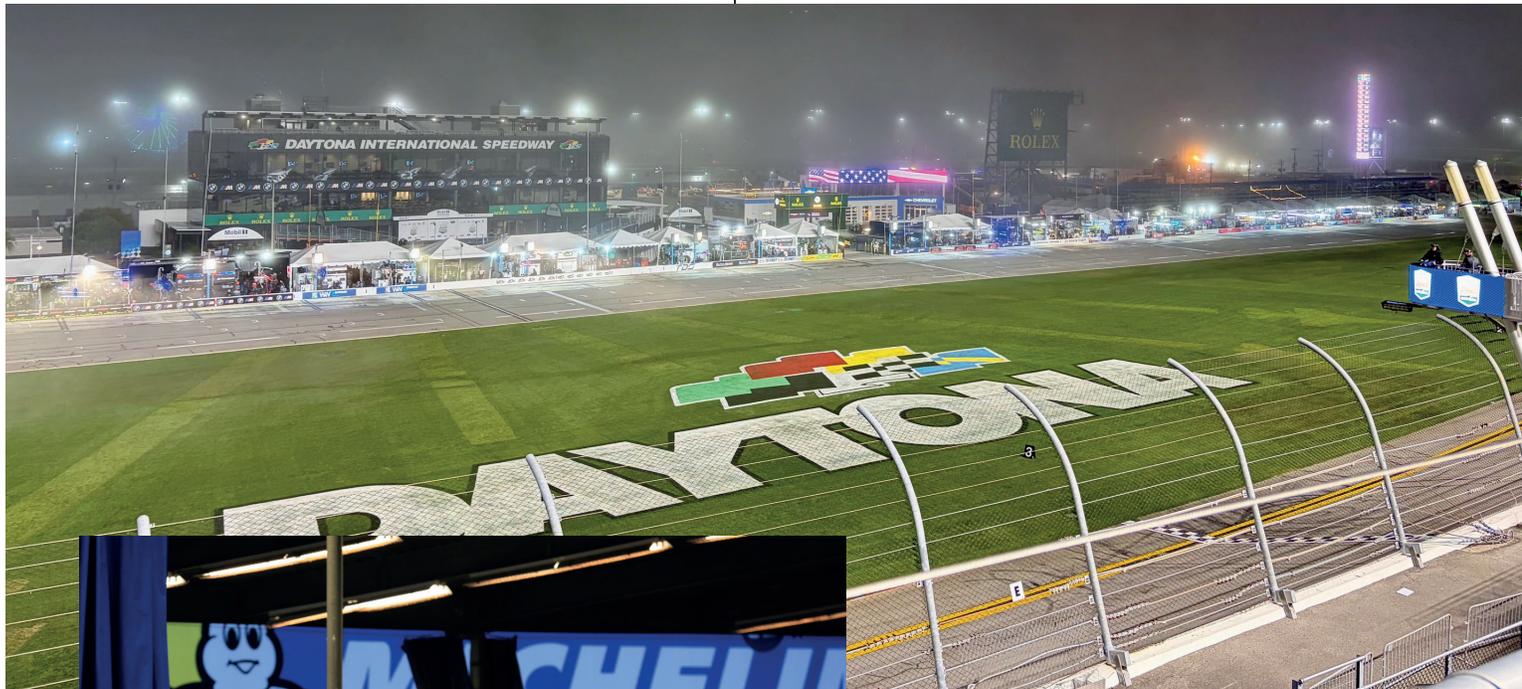


storytelling, and reconnecting. Some were first-time attendees; others, like me, were veterans of many January nights at Daytona.

The Ferrari 499P dominated the world stage in 2025 (winning both the WEC manufactures & drivers' championship), however it has yet to compete within the IMSA series. This allowed a 3rd consecutive overall win by the Penske

to the same road course configuration used just hours earlier by the world's best endurance drivers. Imagine an experience that never loses its impact. Rolling onto the banking, feeling the compression load through the chassis, and tracking out onto the infield section reframes your appreciation of what we had just witnessed from above.

The paddock on Monday morning felt



different from race weekend. The transporters were gone. The grandstands quieter. In their place: rows of member-owned Ferraris alongside modern performance masterpieces—idling with anticipation. More than 180 drivers and guests grabbed their helmets and buckled in. 25 instructors offered last-minute reminders. And then, one by one, the prancing horses were released onto hallowed ground.

Porsche team, with Ferrari entries from Risi Competizione & AF Corse jockeying for GTD class victories.

THEN THERE WAS MONDAY....

If the Rolex24 inspires you, the Ferrari Club of America track day that followed on Monday allows you to live it. This marked the 8th consecutive year that the FCA took

There is something uniquely powerful about driving Daytona after the Rolex 24. The rubber laid down during the race still marks the braking zones. Grid, corner and safety marshals were the same familiar faces who just worked the Rolex 24. The FCA track experience is not about ego; it is about growth and shared enthusiasm. It transforms spectators into participants and reinforces why this club matters. A



direct continuum of Ferrari's racing DNA.

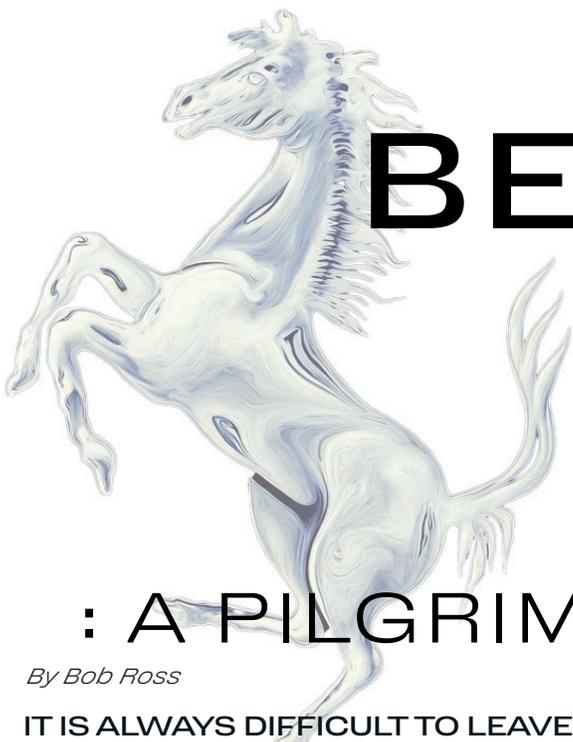
Twelve consecutive years have taught me that Daytona is not just an event—it is a ritual. The Rolex 24 reminds us why Ferrari competes. The FCA suite reminds us why we gather. And the Monday track day reminds us why we drive. So long as there is a green flag in January and a group of FCA members eager to answer its call, I suspect this tradition will continue. Endurance, after all, is what Ferrari does best—and perhaps, what FCA members do best as well.

Here is to year thirteen!!

-Phil Wantoch
Naples Chapter Secretary







BEYOND THE GATES OF FERRARI : A PILGRIMAGE TO MARANELLO

By Bob Ross

IT IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO LEAVE NAPLES, FLORIDA FOR ANOTHER DESTINATION.

You depart hoping the next place might offer better weather, better restaurants, better food. That is a tall order. Naples sets a high bar. *Except when the destination is Tuscany!*

Add to that the promise of visiting the sacred places connected to the most exquisite machines ever created by human hands, and walking the same ground in the Emilia-Romagna region as the genius behind them, Ferrari, and hesitation disappears. You board a plane with purpose, and the captain's reassuring voice carries you on a smooth ride ahead.

And a smooth ride it

We landed in Floren steak—Bistecca alla Fiorentina—a recommendation; thick, unapologetic, and profoundly simple. We made the obligatory stop to see that famously

Photographs were taken. Perspective tricks were attempted. Somewhere

along the way, I apparently committed a traffic violation, because weeks later a ticket arrived by mail. For what? To this day, unclear. *Mi scusi, non parlo italiano.* Paid by wire transfer, purely as a precaution to avoid being "detained" on my next visit. Tuscany gives; Tuscany takes.



A visit to a Parmigiano Reggiano producer followed, and it felt like stepping into another kind of Italian masterpiece. Wheels of cheese aged quietly in cathedral-like rows, stacked with the same reverence and patience as fine wine or art. The air carried a rich, nutty fragrance, and every wheel seemed to hold years

of tradition, craftsmanship, and pride. Parmigiano Reggiano is not just cheese, it is the taste of Emilia-Romagna itself, a golden symbol of perfection achieved through time, care, and an almost sacred dedication to doing things the right way. It is reassuring to see where excellence begins and good stuff is made.

Then came Palagetto winery, where time seems to slow and the wine tastes as though it understands the soil it came from. It is reassuring to see where excellence truly begins. Rooted in tradition, patience, and the quiet craft of



making something good.

THE ACCIDENTAL TRUFFLE REVELATION

Hunger intervened somewhere between vineyard roads and medieval villages. I stopped at the nearest place displaying a hand-painted sign that simply read Ristorante. It was, in truth, somebody's house. A small backyard overflowing with herbs and tomatoes perfumed the air. Cats wandered casually, some asleep on benches, as if they too were regulars. I walked straight into what felt like a family kitchen. A hand-stitched tablecloth. No ceremony. I pointed to a dish on the menu containing truffles.

What could possibly go wrong? Exactly. Nothing. Moments later, a plate arrived buried beneath a mountain of freshly shaved white truffle. I could barely see the pasta underneath. It didn't matter. It was one of those meals that silences conversation and resets expectations. "Delicious" feels inadequate.

MUGELLO: FERRARI'S TEST OF COURAGE

We drove to Scarperia e San Piero to meet international friends at our hotel. The next morning: Mugello Circuit.

Mugello is not just another racetrack. Since 1988 it has been owned and operated by Ferrari, serving as a proving ground for Formula 1 cars and high-performance GT machines born in Maranello. The circuit is carved into rolling Tuscan hills, defined by dramatic elevation changes and fast,

flowing corners that demand precision and courage.



In 2020, it hosted its first Formula 1 Grand Prix—the Tuscan Grand Prix—bringing the pinnacle of motorsport directly into Ferrari's backyard.

I spent hours wandering the pit lane, paddock, and garages. Engines roared across that sacred asphalt. The scenery was breathtaking, but the soundtrack was better.

One more night, I thought. Tomorrow, Maranello.

Maranello: The Threshold

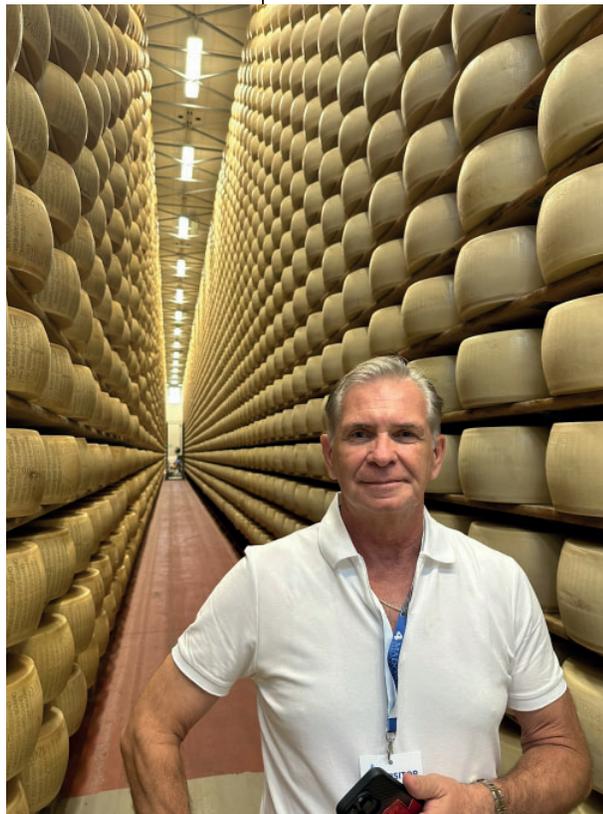
I had planned to sleep at the Maranello Palace... but sleep quickly became a concept, while anticipation kept me wide awake.

My Ferrari factory visit had been arranged with invaluable assistance from our local dealer, Ferrari of Naples. **Timing precise. Logistics seamless.**

For reasons I still cannot explain, I failed to make a reservation at Ristorante Cavallino, the holy grail of Ferrari dining. **A rookie mistake.**

Frustrated, I wandered into the Ferrari official store nearby and began loudly criticizing myself for such negligence.

A store manager overheard my self-inflicted humiliation. After a brief pause, he calmly mentioned that his cousin managed Cavallino and might be able to help.



One phone call later, I had a table. Forty-five minutes after that, I was studying a menu of remarkable appetizers, a seven-course experience, Ferrari-shaped desserts, and the mandatory espresso. *I confirmed with the elegant waitress that cappuccino after breakfast is, in fact, culturally unacceptable.*



After dinner, I was invited upstairs for a private tour. I saw things I am not entirely certain I am permitted to describe. Perhaps another time.

THROUGH THE GATE

Morning in Emilia-Romagna arrived clear and beautiful. No appetite for breakfast. A quick cappuccino sufficed.

A short drive to the iconic factory gate on Via Abetone Inferiore.

The gates of the Ferrari factory are not merely an entrance. They are a threshold to a dream. Marked by Prancing Horse, they feel less like industrial access and more like the doorway to a modern cathedral—where engineering, artistry, and racing heritage converge.

We checked in with a small group of enthusiasts. Phones were sealed with security stickers—no photography permitted inside. A bus carried us beyond the walls.

Inside, the world changes.

Assembly lines move with deliberate calm. In the V12 engine station, each twelve-cylinder is built start to finish by a single craftsman, signed like a painting before installation. In another building, historic Formula 1 machines rest in dignified silence—many owned by collectors who leave them in Ferrari's care until Maranello awakens them for a private event or demonstration.

One interesting observation from the visit felt almost like a lesson about the real world of dealership showrooms: out of roughly thirty-six cars on the assembly line, only two were in classic Rosso Corsa. The rest reflected the endless individuality of modern

Ferrari owners. And despite all the advanced technology, so much of the work still relies on tradition, craftsmanship, and good old manpower—hands guiding bodies and even moving them to and from the paint shop in a way that reminds you these machines are not just



manufactured, but carefully built. In a way, I'm glad you can't take pictures inside the factory. That quiet restriction



feels perfectly Ferrari. The brand has always been built on exclusivity and mystery—on the idea that the most extraordinary things are never fully revealed, never easily reached. Ferrari is not just about cars, but about dominance, discipline, and the rare ability to control its own destiny, keeping what matters most just beyond the lens.



models you saw no longer matter. The paint colors, the number of cylinders, even the technical details begin to fade. Everything blends into one overwhelming sensation: you have witnessed something rare, almost otherworldly.

It is the atmosphere more than the machinery. The quiet spirit that fills the space, the calm precision,

You arrive thinking you are about to visit a factory. Something tangible, something you can simply observe, see, and understand. But as the visit comes to an end, you realize it is something entirely different. The specific



the unexpected harmony of beautiful green scenery within the assembly halls. It draws you into a kind of trance, a lingering state of awe that stays with you long after you've stepped back outside.



**You do not simply tour Ferrari-
You absorb it!**

And long after you pass back through those gates, the feeling remains—quiet, powerful, and unforgettable.

04



FRANCOIS SICARD

Renowned Ferrari mechanic/race engineer/restorer
article by Chris Rabkin

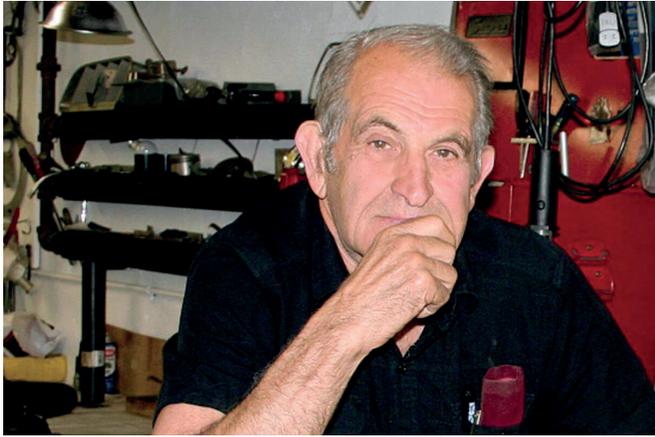
The Man Behind the Myth:

In the grand tapestry of Ferrari history—woven with the names of legendary drivers, visionary engineers, and the unmistakable silhouette of the Cavallino Rampante—there exists a quieter thread. It is the thread of the mechanic, the race engineer, the artisan whose hands shaped performance long before computers and telemetry took the stage. Among these craftsmen, one name stands apart with a reverence usually reserved for drivers: François

Sicard. To speak with anyone who worked alongside Sicard is to hear the same refrain—precision, intuition, devotion. He was the kind of mechanic who didn't simply service a Ferrari; he

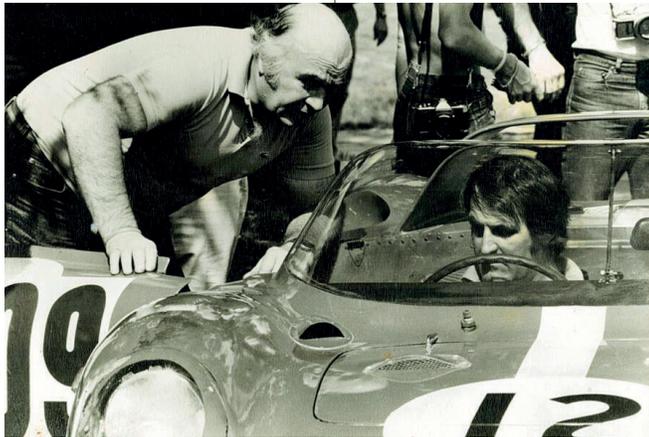


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understood it. He listened to engines the way a conductor listens to an orchestra, attuned to the faintest discordant note. In an era when racing success depended as much on feel as on engineering, Sicard became indispensable.

Born with a natural mechanical instinct and a relentless curiosity, Sicard entered the world of motorsport at a time when the



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line between mechanic and race engineer was fluid. You didn't just turn wrenches—you diagnosed, interpreted, and often reinvented. His early work quickly caught the attention of teams who recognized that rare blend of technical mastery and calm under pressure. Before long, Sicard found himself working on some of the most important Ferrari competition cars of the postwar era. What set him apart was not only his skill, but his philosophy. Sicard

believed that every Ferrari had a personality—an identity shaped by its build, its history, and the drivers who pushed it to its limits. His job, as he saw it, was to bring out the best in each machine, to coax performance not through force but through understanding. This approach earned him the trust of legendary drivers who relied on his judgment as much as his craftsmanship.

A Craftsman of the Pre-Digital

Age: Today's race engineers are armed with laptops, sensors, and

data streams. Sicard had none of that. His tools were his hands, his ears, and a lifetime of experience. He could diagnose a misfire by sound, detect imbalance by feel, and sense the health of an en-

gine through the vibrations transmitted through the chassis.

This was the golden age of me-



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chanical intuition—when a mechanic's senses were as valuable as any instrument. Sicard embodied that era. He became known for his ability to prepare a car so precisely that drivers often remarked it felt "alive," responsive in a way that inspired confidence at the limit.

His reputation grew not through self-promotion, but through results. Cars he touched ran better, lasted longer, and performed with a consistency that teams came to rely on. In the paddock, his presence was a quiet reassurance: if Sicard was on the job, the car would be ready.

Guardian of Ferrari's Heritage:

As the decades progressed, Sicard's role evolved. He became not only a race engineer but a restorer—one of the few entrusted with the mechanical resurrection of historically significant Ferraris. These were not mere cars; they were artifacts of motorsport history, each with a story etched into its metal. Sicard approached

restoration with the same reverence he brought to racing: authenticity first, always.

Owners and collectors sought him out for his ability to preserve the soul of a car while returning it to its rightful glory. He understood that a Ferrari's history was as important as its performance, and he treated each restoration as a stewardship of heritage. Under his care, forgotten machines roared back to life,

ready to be shown, driven, and celebrated once more.

His work became a bridge between eras—connecting the raw, analog world of early Ferrari racing with the modern passion of today's enthusiasts. In many ways, Sicard helped ensure that the stories of these cars would not fade, but continue to inspire future generations.

A Historic First at the 2026 FCA Annual Meet

This year, the Ferrari Club of America writes a new chapter in its own history. At the 2026 Annual Meet in Monticello, New York, François Sicard becomes the



<https://068magazine.com/the-prancing-horse-whisperer-francois-sicard-renowned-ferrari-mechanic-race-engineer-and-more>

first mechanic ever to be honored as the event's featured personality.



<https://068magazine.com/the-prancing-horse-whisperer-fran-sicard-renowned-ferrari-mechanic-race-engineer-and-more>

In a tradition that has long spotlighted drivers, owners, and collectors, this recognition marks a profound shift—an acknowledgment of the men whose work made Ferrari's victories possible.

Sicard's selection is more than symbolic. It is a celebration of the artisans who lived in the shadows of the pit lane, whose hands coaxed performance from metal, whose intuition kept cars alive at the limit, and whose dedication shaped the legacy of the Prancing Horse.

For the Naples Chapter and for MOTORE D'ART, this moment resonates deeply. It affirms what enthusiasts have always known: that Ferrari's story is not only written on the track, but in the workshops, garages, and paddocks where craftsmen like Sicard forged the mechanical soul of the marque.

The Legacy of a True Ferrari Maestro

François Sicard's story is not one of fame, but of mastery. He represents the essence of Ferrari's mechanical heritage: passion without ego, craftsmanship without compromise, and a lifelong devotion to the pursuit of perfection.

In honoring him at Monticello, the Ferrari Club of America honors the spirit of Ferrari itself.

1940s–1950s — Early Mechanical Roots

- Develops a natural instinct for machinery and engines
- Begins working in motorsport during the postwar boom
- Quickly recognized for precision and calm under pressure

1960s — Rise in European Racing Circles

- Joins teams preparing competition cars for endurance and GT racing
- Builds a reputation for diagnosing issues by sound and feel
- Gains the trust of drivers who rely on his intuition

1970s — Work with Ferrari Competition Cars

- Becomes involved with significant Ferrari race machinery
- Known for preparing cars that feel "alive" and responsive
- Establishes himself as a go-to mechanic for high-stakes events

1980s–1990s — Master Restorer

- Expands into restoration of historically important Ferraris
- Prioritizes authenticity and mechanical integrity
- Helps preserve rare competition cars for collectors and museums

2000s–2020s — Guardian of Ferrari Heritage

- Continues to restore, maintain, and advise on iconic Ferraris
- Becomes a respected figure in the global Ferrari community
- His craftsmanship influences a new generation of restorers

2026 — A Historic First

- Named the first mechanic ever featured at the Ferrari Club of America Annual Meet
- Honored at the 2026 Monticello, New York Meet
- Recognized for a lifetime of mechanical mastery and devotion to the marque

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