

CLASSIC DRIVER

Just two Frua-bodied Maserati 5000 GTs exist and you could own both!

Lead
It's almost impossible to find every example of a specific model for sale in one place, and yet unbelievably, Kidston are offering for sale both of the only two Frua-Bodied Maserati 5000GTs ever built.



In late 1958, Maserati was not in the best place financially. It had been an expensive year of racing, and their 450S sports racer — whose highly developed 4.5-litre V8 had cost the company a fortune — was no longer eligible to compete. Things weren't looking great, but fortunately a glimmer of hope emerged in the form of Shah Reza Pahlavi, the absolute ruler of Iran and a certified petrol head.





The Shah was in Modena on a shopping spree, and Maserati's 3500 GT road car caught his eye, but didn't quite seem fit for royalty. The solution was obvious for Maserati: fit the 3500 GT with the 450S's racing engine (enlarged to 5-litres for the sake of usability), then charge the Shah through the nose for the privilege. And boy did they affix a monumental sum to this ultra-rare super GT; a price of 7.5 million lire — nearly 3 million more than a 3500 GT — was agreed.



All in all, 34 5000 GTs with original 450S engines were built, but only two were bodied by Carrozzeria Frua, both of which featured the later platform of a fuel-injected engine with chain-driven camshafts, ZF five-speed transmission and all-round Girling disc brakes. [The red car you see here](#) was the first of the two, it was also the 1962 Geneva and Paris motor show car. The [stunning light blue example](#) was the second built, and if you ask us, it would only be fitting to keep these two unicorns in the same stable. If these two jaw-dropping examples of the legendary 'Car of Kings' have caught your eye, [Kidstone](#) will be waiting for your call.

Gallery

