CLASSIC DRIVER

Meet the Spanish Ferrari that outpaced prancing horses in its heyday

LeadBroad Arrow Auctions' Amelia Island sale is bursting with irresistible collector cars, and while the array of hypercars certainly caught our eye, we couldn't stop thinking about this stunning Saoutchik-bodied Pegaso Z-102.





If we asked you to name a legendary Spanish sportscar manufacturer, Hispano-Suiza is probably the first marque that springs to mind. However, that isn't the only world-beating name to come out of Spain; in 1946, a gifted engineer by the name of Wilfredo Ricart founded Pegaso and began chasing his dream of producing unrivaled sports cars in the old Barcelona-based previously used by none other than Hispano-Suiza.





Ricardo Ricart was already a veteran in the motoring industry, having worked alongside Enzo Ferrari at Alfa Romeo in the 1930s to design the Tipo 512 Grand Prix car. However, it wouldn't be until 1951 with the launch of the Z-102 that Ricart would get his first chance at challenging the scarlet sports cars from Maranello, choosing a pegasus — the winged horse from Greek mythology — as the symbol for his brand.

Impressively, everything apart from the body was built in-house, including the four-cam, four-valve-per-cylinder aluminium V-8. Production would continue for seven years until 1958, with just 84 examples of the Z-102 leaving the factory, the majority featuring coachwork by Touring. Despite being too heavy and complex to truly compete in sports car racing, the Z-102 quickly proved that Pegaso was a name to be revered, taking the title of the world's fastest production car from the Jaguar XK120 in 1953 with a top speed of 151mph.





This magnificent example was displayed at the Paris Motor Show in 1954 and is one of only five remaining LHD Saoutchik Series II Berlinettas. Retaining its original engine, this Z-102 benefitted from a Concours-quality restoration in 2013 and would later win the Amelia Award at the 2016 Amelia Island Concours in the Pegaso feature class. While the Pegaso name is relatively unknown today, this Z-102 remains a stunning testament to the talent of both Wilfredo Ricart and designer Jacques Saoutchik. Now's the chance to add this Spanish beauty to your collection, as it heads to Broad Arrow Auctions' Amelia auction between March 1st and 2nd.

VIEW CAR

Gallery

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