

# CLASSIC DRIVER

## Ferrari Argentina - Sports Cars



**Publishers Cristián Bertschi and Estanislao Iacona have produced another marvellous book in their series on the history of significant marques in their home country. On the heels of [‘Alfa Romeo Argentina’](#) and [‘Bugatti Argentina’](#), comes a history of Ferrari’s two-seaters, with a single-seater volume to follow.**

As was the case with the other books, **Bertschi** and **Iacona** mix motoring history with contemporary racing and prevailing social and economic conditions. Argentina had been a successful market for **Bugatti**, **Alfa Romeo** and **Maserati** pre-War, so when the new manufacturer **‘Ferrari’** burst onto the scene in the late-40s, it was inevitable that examples of the marque would cross the Atlantic.

Argentina was well-recognised for not only producing racing drivers of genius such as **Fangio** and **Gonzalez** but also, through its wealthy ‘Gentleman Drivers’, being a good marketplace for sophisticated European machinery. In 1947 the *Automóvil Club Argentino* had organised the first *Temporada Internacional* for single-seaters, and such was the success of the event that the following year the ACA repeated the race series and the first Ferraris came to Argentina.



With its strong Italian ex-patriot community, Argentina took to the imported cars with relish, but it was a couple of years before a sports Ferrari took an overall win, the honour falling to sometime-Grand-Prix-driver **Carlos *Charlie* Menditeguy** in his **166 MM Spider**, chassis 0024, in 1950. From that time onwards, a succession of rich amateurs and hard-bitten professionals campaigned the red cars with enthusiasm. This book is their story.



The account runs through the 50s, with the entry of works cars for **Collins, Allison, von Trips** and **Gendebien** in the big international rounds, and ends in 1972. This was the final year of the **Buenos Aires 1000Km**, a race that was won, fittingly, by **Ronnie Petersen** and **Tim Schenken** driving a **Ferrari 312 PB**.

The photography is truly superb - you'd have any number of the b/w pictures mounted and framed on your office wall - and evokes an era of real tough guys, red wine and rare steaks.



Ferrari fans and nostalgics alike will love it, and we're already looking forward to the accompanying single-seater book sometime next year.

*Ferrari Argentina - Sports Cars, by Cristián Bertschi and Estanislao Iacona is priced at \$US175.00, DHL shipping included worldwide. Hard cover, 30 x 25cm. English / Spanish. 340 pages. 304 duotone / 14 colour photographs.*

Orders can be emailed to: [eiacona@gmail.com](mailto:eiacona@gmail.com)

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