

CLASSIC DRIVER

[Bonhams' £36m Auction at the Goodwood Festival of Speed 2013: Reaching new levels](#)

Lead

Bonhams broke all records at its 2013 Festival sale. Not only did the Bond St company sell the ex-Fangio Mercedes W196 for a staggering £19.6m, it also achieved the record price for a Maserati at auction and grossed the highest figure for a European collectors' car sale: £36,072,464.

You can [read all about the Mercedes GP car elsewhere on Classic Driver](#), but once Lot 320 was safely despatched to the record books (and an anonymous telephone bidder) there followed more – sometimes record-breaking – prices to come. The previous record price of £2.3m for a historic Maserati was comfortably eclipsed by the £4,033,500 paid for the ex-Briggs Cunningham 1955 300S.

Other cars reaching stratospheric levels included the £1.9m 1934 Alfa Romeo 8C 2300 Le Mans Tourer, a rare, RHD Ferrari Superfast that achieved £852,700 and another Bonhams speciality, the ex-factory Healey 100S that also scaled heights never before achieved with its £843,000.



Celebrity ownership is not always reflected in higher-than-normal values, but the usually 'plain Jane', twin-headlamp 1965 Ferrari 330GT 2+2 clearly received some of the gloss from the brief period it was in Beatle John Lennon's hands. It sold for £359,500.

And as for restoration projects – where would a Bonhams sale be without them? The motor car section commenced with someone paying £30,475 for the remains of the ex-Porsche Cars GB press fleet, earliest right-hand-drive 911S imported into the UK, 1966 Porsche 911S 'SWB'.

Held under blistering, 30deg heat, the auction tent was often packed – some 1000 people were present to see the Mercedes eventually sold for £17.5m (that equates to £19,601,500 with buyer's premium). And when auctioneer Robert Brooks brought the hammer down on that lot, the saleroom erupted – sunshine and smiles all round.

Gallery

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