

# CLASSIC DRIVER

## Modern Classics: Ferrari 612 Scaglietti

### Lead

It's hard to believe, but the Ferrari 612 Scaglietti has already celebrated its 10th birthday. At the time of launch, the gentleman's GT suffered some criticism: too conservative and too feminine was the hasty judgement...

### Love at second sight



Creating a worthy successor to the much-loved [456 GT](#) was no mean feat for [Ferrari](#) – especially as the replacement 612 would also be dedicated to Sergio Scaglietti, who had designed many of the most beautiful Prancing Horses in history. Frank Stephenson (now Design Director at [McLaren](#)) oversaw the [Pininfarina](#) design team's efforts: the long bonnet, broad shoulders and large glass area complied with the morphology of a classic GT. The short tail was simple yet muscular. Further inspiration came from the famous one-off 375 MM 'Bergman Ferrari' also penned by Pinin Farina. As a result, the 612 was given delicate, leaf-shaped headlights and pronounced side scallops.

### The last true gentleman's Ferrari?



This form might have been delightful in theory, but to many the [612 Scaglietti](#) wasn't quite as proportionally coherent as it should have been. Many have now warmed to the shape, however – and its dynamic abilities were never in question. The aluminium bodywork made it 60kg lighter than the 456 M it replaced, the interior was bristling with fine leather and aluminium trimmings (no Fiat switchgear to be found here), the damping was adaptive, and a hulking great 5.7-litre V12 lurked beneath that never-ending bonnet. An updated version of that found in the [575 Maranello](#), it produced 540bhp and was good for almost 200mph.

Much has changed since the 612 Scaglietti was retired. The replacement [FE](#), as with its stablemates, unashamedly boasts an aggressive form language – one demanded by a new generation of customer. In turn, this perhaps makes the 612 all the more desirable as the last elegant Ferrari. And with the marque's 2+2 cars traditionally not quite as good as their 2-seater counterparts at holding value, the 612 Scagliettis still offer a *lot* of car for a relatively reasonable outlay.

Photos: Ferrari

### Gallery











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