



1886

Benz Patent Motorcar

1898

Benz Velo Comfortable

1911

Benz 8/18

1935

MB 200

1936

MB 500 K Cabriolet C

1938

MB 170 V

1953

MB 300 S Cabriolet

1886 BENZ **PATENT MOTORCAR**

Some Interesting Facts...

- 1 This car is a running reproduction of the Benz Patent Motor Car, described as the first practical car in the world. The Patent Motor Car was built by Karl Benz in Mannheim, Germany in 1886 and he applied for his patent on 29th January of that year. German patent number 37435 was awarded.
- 2 The original car was tested for the first time in public on 3rd July 1886 in Mannheim and the surrounding district when speeds of up to 15 km/h were reached.
- 3 Karl Benz was an engineer, inventor and designer who was never entirely satisfied with his work and was always seeking to improve things further, with the result that he never managed to bring his invention to public attention.
- 4 In 1888 his wife Bertha decided to take matters into her own hands and prove to the world that her husband's invention was revolutionary and would change transport beyond imagination. She decided to take the car out during the night, while her husband slept and together with her two teenage sons, Eugene and Richard, she drove to her mother's home in Pforzheim, a distance of 100 km. The trip was fraught with problems, including searching for fuel at chemists in towns and villages along the way. She also had to use her ingenuity to deal with several mechanical problems before eventually arriving at her mother's house 20 hours later. The story of her endeavours very quickly gained worldwide attention and the motor car became a sensation. Bertha Benz has gone down in history as the world's first car thief, woman driver and roadside car mechanic.
- 5 The car is powered by a four-stroke petrol engine, is water cooled, has a coil ignition and rack-and-pinion steering. All of those features are still employed in our cars, 133 years later. The engine is rear mounted horizontally and has an output of 0.75 hp at 400 rpm. The power transmission is via flat belt to a countershaft with differential and by chains to the rear wheels.
- 6 This car was purchased by Denis Dowdall on behalf of Motor Distributors in 1990.