

1953 Mercedes-Benz 300 S Cabriolet

Some Interesting Facts...

- The Mercedes-Benz 300 S (W 188) was Germany's most expensive production car for 6 years, built between 1951 and 1955. It was designed, by chief engineer Fritz Nallinger, to pick up where the fabulous 500 K and 540 K supercharged sports models had left off. There were three body styles, the Coupé (216 units), the Cabriolet (203 units) and the Roadster (141 units) for a total production of 560 units. It was followed by the 300 Sc, with 200 units built between 1955 and 1958.
- This is the last of the separate chassis and body cars, having a deep oval tube cruciform chassis with reinforcing plates welded to the centre of the frame to increase torsional stiffness. There is a wishbone and coil sprung independent front suspension, anti-roll bar and double pivot swing axles at the rear. The last iteration, the 300 Sc, saw the introduction of the single pivot rear swing axle which went a good way towards removing the oversteer, experienced with high speed cornering. Braking was still unassisted and chassis lubrication was still manual every 100 miles.
- The engine in the 300 S is a 2,996 cc Inline 6-cylinder, with overhead camshaft. The power output is 150 bhp at 5,000 rpm achieved by adding a carburettor, now three solex downdraft carburettors and increasing the compression ratio. The cylinder dimensions are slightly under square with a short stroke of 88 mm to permit high operating speeds. The maximum speed is 109 mph with an acceleration rate of 15 seconds from 0-62 mph. The fuel consumption is approximately 13.7 mpg and the fuel tank capacity is 20 gallons.
- This car was imported by Mrs Madeline Jay in 1962, it was her mother's car purchased in Hamburg in 1955. She originally lived in Kildare and then moved to Mount Usher in Ashford Co. Wicklow. In 1986, it was one of the 300 historic vehicles exhibited at the "Century of Motoring" Exhibition at the RDS. It was purchased by Denis Dowdall on behalf of Motor Distributors Limited in 1997.