



1963 Mercedes-Benz **300 SL Roadster**

Some Interesting Facts...

- 1 The Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Roadster (W 198-II) was a direct replacement of the Gullwing. Between 1957 and 1963, 1,858 units of the Roadster/Coupé were produced.
- 2 The Roadster gave Stuttgart an opportunity to address some of the shortcomings in the Gullwing Coupés. The most obvious improvement was the open sports top, a desirable feature in its largest potential market of California.
- 3 While the gullwing doors were iconic they made getting into and out of the car difficult. So much so, that the Gullwing had a hinged steering wheel. This new Roadster had a modified spaceframe chassis and traditional hinged doors at the scuttle. The spare wheel was moved from the boot to underneath it and a single pivot swing-axle was introduced to improve on the Gullwing Coupé's tricky handling.
- 4 A styling modification that was introduced with the Roadster was the Lichteinheiten or light unities. A vertical cluster of headlight, side light and indicators behind a single large lens. Switches were recessed into the dashboard as part of the new emphasis on safety being promulgated by Bela Barenyi.
- 5 The 2,996 cc Inline 6-cylinder engine was fitted, in the US, with the sports camshaft and a higher compression ratio of 9.5:1 which developed 215 bhp at 6,100 rpm and had a top speed of 137 mph. Maximum torque was 228 lb/ft. Acceleration from 0-60 mph was 7.8 seconds with the 3.89 ratio axle.
- 6 This car was exported to the USA in 1963. In 1984 it was purchased by Mr M Kulak Jnr of New York. Mr Joseph V Masin of Santa Barbara California purchased it from Twin State Car Company, Claremont, New Hampshire USA in 1987. It then underwent a complete and superb restoration by Richardson of Phoenix Arizona before being sold to Auto Loan USA Inc. It was then put up for auction at Pebble Beach in October 1993, where it was purchased by the late Nigel O'Flaherty.