



## Book Review

La Targa Florio della Giulietta

Gino Giugno

ISBN 88-95272-00-5

Italian text

I first became aware of this book through Peter Yaxley who found a just-published copy at the Padua Mostra scambio. Naturally, as the owner of an SZ, with purported Targa history, it piqued my curiosity, and when I saw a copy in Milan recently, at Libreria dell'automobile, I took the chance to purchase it!

Single-minded in its focus, this (self-published) book is evidently the work of single-minded determination by a man living not too far from the famous course itself, Gino Giugno from Palermo.

The book is light on text, and all of that is in Italian, but after a brief discussion of the history of the Targa Florio, and a brief history of the Giulietta, the book then gets down to the gritty, and its *raison d'être*.

Chapter by chapter, starting in 1956 and finishing in 1966, the book documents by entry lists and illustrates with photos (many of which will never have been seen outside Sicily). Pretty much every Giulietta variant to have taken part in Targa Florio, from early Sprint and Spiders, through TIs and SSes, into the era of SVZ and finally the most illustrious and numerous Targa Florio Alfa, the SZ.

By James Wiseman

The level of research is illustrated by the fact that most of the cars shown are documented not just by their race number, but by chassis number and registration number as well, a real boon for those of us researching our car's documented history.

There are some superb photos of all eras. One of the most striking things looking through the photos is the heavy tool taken on the Alfa bodywork by the Sicilian countryside, and in particular the markers the drivers called "bone stones". There is nary a car which does not have several dents on the nose, and bits of tape holding on headlights, not to mention bent from wings and grilles. No wonder many SZs show signs of hard use.

From a regular car's point of view, there are some superb photos of the ex Virgilio car now owned by Paul Gregory, with its remarkably unbroken list of Targa Florio entries, and a class win in 1963! For myself, I was delighted to find four previous-unseen photos of my car being driven to 14th overall by "Ivanhoe" and Enzo Buzzetti, and then, devoid of paint, by Ignazio Giunti in 1963. I'm sure many other Giuliettisti who own cars with known Targa history will be similarly gratified.

All in all, despite its somewhat low production value, and dearth of text, this is an extremely worthwhile purchase, and a great addition to a relatively sparse canon of Giulietta-related literature. Alas, since the edition I limited to only 500 copies, I suspect it will be one of those books (much like the Minerbi SS/TZ book and "The Racing Giuliettas"). Which will be difficult to find in a few years' time, Hopefully, a few booksellers in the UK, as well as Chris Robinson and Tony Stevens, may import the book, or alternatively you may be able to order from Libreria dell'Automobile.