



## SpaItalia 2009

# Red passion under the sun !

The regular visitors of the most beautiful circuit of the world are aware of it: the green area of Spa suffers traditionally from a microclimate say... wet. However for its eighth edition, **SpaItalia** denied the legend. Whereas an overcast sky covered the whole country this week end, it was once again under a Mediterranean sun that **SpaItalia** took place in Francorchamps, to the great joy of the participants.

### SEVERAL RECORDS !

For few years now, **SpaItalia** covers the whole weekend. The objective is to attract and gather together a larger crowd of fans and at the same time to provide everyone with more time to make the most of the conviviality of the event and to take part in the many activities on offer. This formula was once again claimed to be a huge success. It was hard to find a free parking slot, in particular in the Ferrari and Alfa Romeo paddock. With 1.300 Italian cars in the infield and over 6.000 visitors, everywhere, the passion was there in a very "dolce vita" atmosphere!

### QUALITY FIRST AS USUAL

If we can regret the last minute and unexplained absence of the Carrozzeria Castagna owners, who had however announced the arrival of their last creations, the visitors had some unique master pieces to discover. In the middle of the exhibition area, the Isotta Fraschini Castagna of 1931, flanked by two pre-war Fiat, coming from the workshops of the Milanese carriage-builder, posed proudly in front of a range of GT's, symbols of the Italian sports cars passion in the Sixties and Seventies.

With such a range of participants, the jury of the Concours d'Elegance had a hard job, not forgetting the last minute entrants who made a point in emphasizing the out of the time beauty of transalpine concepts. If the "Best of Show" went logically to the Isotta Fraschini mentioned above, the other categories saw a tough contest amongst several cars presented in an exceptional state. Noteworthy, the Tom Mertens' superb Iso Grifo 1967 or one of the seventies' icons, the gorgeous Alfa Romeo Montreal.

## **PLENTY OF ANIMATIONS**

With the clubs or in the shops, on the track or in the paddocks, the activities were numerous and varied. Let us quote in particular the Saturday rally, which was highly appreciated by all the participants, the track tests of the last Fiat Abarth 500, the competition of scale models or the first runs in Ferrari ! Everyone found what they were looking for.

## **AND WHAT ABOUT NEXT YEAR ?**

For its ninth edition, **Spaltalia** will celebrate the centenary of Alfa Romeo ! The Jean-Pierre Magalhaes' team is already debating how to put together the various ideas and projects aiming to offer to the enthusiasts an unforgettable weekend. The dates of June 19 and 20, 2010 were pre-booked with the circuit. Pencil them from now on in your diary. With the support of the clubs and the public, the 2010 event will be an exceptional show and a tremendous success!

**More information about the Alfa Romeo Centenary in **Spaltalia** on [www.southservices.be](http://www.southservices.be).**