

Italian Job in an MG 2009

'Coast to Coast' September 18-27 2009



St Peter's, Rome. Photo: Sue Wagstaff

In 2007, the MG Car Club d'Italia organised an event called the **Italian Job in an MG** to celebrate the iconic film *The Italian Job*. Fabio Filippello, President of the Italian Club, decided it would be very nice to organise a second edition starting in Rome and followed by a scenic road run across the spine of Italy to the Adriatic resort of Gabicce Mare.

The entry was modest with five MGs from the UK, a Porsche from Holland and Fabio with three other MGs from Italy.

The event began with two days of sightseeing in Rome, using public transport because driving in Rome is not for the fainthearted! On the third day we used our cars for a tour around the volcanic lakes of Albano and Lago taking in the Pope's summer residence at Castel Gondolfo. Lunch had been arranged at Ristorante Zi Pietro, which is run by a friend of Fabio's. After a magnificent feast here we were treated to a tour of Pietro's amazing collection of over 400 motorcycles, tractors, steam engines and a Twin Engine aeroplane mounted on a hydraulic cylinder. Pietro obviously enjoyed demonstrating how he could 'fly' the aircraft using the hydraulic controls. Try finding a restaurant



Trevi Fountain, Rome. It is said if you throw a coin in the fountain you will return to Rome. Photo: Sue Wagstaff



Running repairs to Fabio's TD. Photo: Sue Wagstaff



Rare Fiat Toppolino Estate belonging to Elvis impersonator and barman at the Hotel Alexander in Gabicce Mare. Photo: Sue Wagstaff



John & Janet, Nigel & Valerie, and Fabio & Maya enjoying the sun. Photo: Sue Wagstaff



The Mayor of Ascoli welcomes Fabio to his beautiful town. Photo: Sue Wagstaff



Inside the Colosseum. Photo: Janet Day



Copy of Italy 09 119. Our friends from the local Italian Club at Montebello. Photo: Janet Day

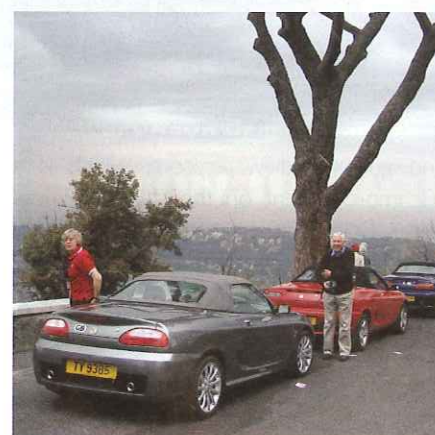
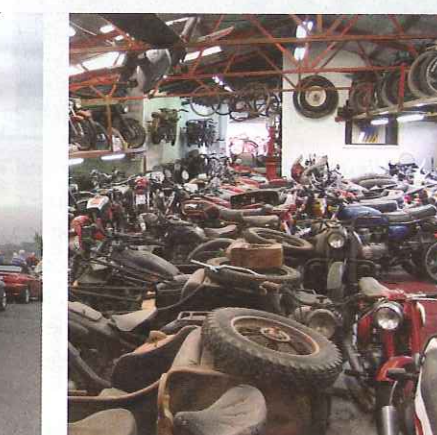


Photo opportunity on the edge of Lago Albano. Photo: John Day



Collection of over 400 motorcycles at Zi Pertos. Photo: John Day



In the Mayor's Parlour at Ascoli. Photo: John Day

in the UK with this sort of attraction!

On the fourth day the group drove to Ascoli Piceno in the Appenine Mountains using the spectacular Via Salaria, the ancient Roman salt road. The visit to Ascoli was one of the many highlights of the whole trip, with a formal welcome by the Mayor who allowed us to park in the normally traffic free plaza outside the town hall.

The next day was spent driving to Gabicce the home of numerous MG by the Sea events where we were joined by Tom Gustafson from Denmark.

Starting from Gabicce each day we visited diverse areas of the regions ably guided by the local MG Club members, Fausto Parma, Gianni Castellani and

Edoardo Fabri with their partners.

The Associazione di Gabicce Mare (The Hotel Board of Gabicce Mare) was the major partner who helped Fabio to organise this wonderful event. The partnership is very important to Fabio because it has made the many MG events in the region possible over the last 15 years.

It was indeed a wonderful 10-day event, which had the warm and friendly atmosphere of a family group due to the intimate nature of such a small number of people.

We sincerely hope Fabio is able to organise another similar event in the future so that we can look forward to enjoying this beautiful country once again.



Il Presidente! Photo: John Day