

ENJOYING MG FEBRUARY 2012

MG Meeting of Gracchi

Three generations of MGs cars and owners together for the Meeting of Gracchi in Nepi on October 1st, 2011

The Gracchi brothers were two well-known Roman statesmen and social reformers, sons of the consul Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus and of Cornelia. Cornelia was a Roman matron; she refused to remarry after her husband's death, according to the rules, devoting herself to her children. The brothers were brought up with great care by their mother, who referred to them as "my jewels".

Romans were well known for their passion for spring water and thermae or spas. Nepi, which name means water in Etruscans language, is known for its mineral springs and the Thermae of Gracchi; nowadays the mineral water is bottled in a modern factory and sold under the Acqua di Nepi brand throughout Italy.

Nepi town, situated 45 km distance from Rome, but is older than that great city, having been founded 458 years earlier.

Choosing Nepi and its neighbours for our meeting we had the idea to call it the 1st Meeting of Gracchi, playing with initials letters M and G.

The meeting was also the first opportunity to put together two groups of MGs cars and owners all living in Rome or in its neighbours; the regional MG Car Club of historic cars and a group of owners of modern F and TF, collecting 50 year of MG story and 56 people aging from 20 to 70 years.

Thirty cars joined Nepi in the morning; 23 historic cars: including 1 TD, 1 TF, several A, B and B coupes, 1 Magnette, but not only MGs, special guests 1 Austin Healey 3000 Mk2 and 1 Fiat 600.

The group of seven modern MGs was led by a 1996 plate white MGF followed by several MG TFs including one of the last models built a 2005 TF.

The first part of the meeting was spent visiting the fortification wall of Castel Sant'Elia and the Borgia's Castle in Nepi, where the famous Lucretia Borgia, the daughter of the Pope Alexander third, lived in 1500, having been appointed by him as governor.

In the afternoon a regularity trial was arranged in the trucks' manoeuvring yard of the water bottling plant.

The trial was designed with two 100 meters straight lanes with in the middle a gymkhana shaped in figure of 8, surrounded by the bottled water pallets and crates, waiting for the delivery.

The winner was awarded by the organizers with the highest position of a three levels platform created using empty bottles crates, 1st classified the old and perfect TF (number 1), the 2nd place was for the superb Austin Healey (number 16) and the 3rd position for a debutant green TF (number 30).

But the day was not finished, while the



Nepi Acqua



MGA waiting to start



Nepi Piazza



MG TF



Nepi Castello



Magnette Varitone



Rostrum at Nepi Acqua

old MGs were making their way home, the modern TF started a 100 meter acceleration trial, organised for the fun of the TF owners, the best time was a 6.27 sec.

A typical summer weather accompanied

ourselves all the day, this allowing us to get our lunch in the garden of Casa Tuscia restaurant, located at the base of Nepi's fortification walls.

According to the proverb "the appetite grows with what it feeds on" we are looking forward for the next meeting, the cold season which is approaching as well the time for "polenta", the very well known

pudding with maize, tomato sauce and pork sausages.

We will keep you updated.

Francesco LaMarra - Patrizio Dessi