



# THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST

Historic motor sport fans are spoiled for choice, with blue-chip events around the globe taking place throughout the year. Here are the most anticipated for 2014

## Tour Auto

7-12 April

Although there are plenty of similar events in various countries emulating closed-roads-with-race-circuits formula, Tour Auto Optic 2000, or Tour de France as it used to be known after the 1951-1973 road race that inspired it, has been running since 1991.

This year, the 23rd running of event, the route is in eastern France, from Paris to Marseille taking in Dijon-Prenois, L'Anneau du Rhin, Bresse and Paul Ricard circuits. Among plenty of Ferrari GTOs and SWBs there'll be more humble fare such as Sunbeam Rapiers and Mini-Coopers – the latter one of the featured marques along with BMW. There's also an evening 'Mini tour', in which under-13s can drive electric cars in Parc Ferme.

// [www.tourauto.com](http://www.tourauto.com)

## Donington Historic Festival

3-5 May

More than 400 historic racing cars spanning seven decades are promised, plus historic rally car and karting action. Highlight is the Motor Sport 90th Anniversary Trophy, a double-header race for pre-war cars on Sunday and Monday, with pit-stops included.

// [www.doningtonhistoric.com](http://www.doningtonhistoric.com)

## Targa Tasmania

6-11 May

One of the world's maddest road races. Part of the four-round Australian Targa Championship, it loops 2000km on 40 stages on closed roads in the top half of the island to finish in Hobart, emulating features of Targa Florio, Mille Miglia, Coupe des Alpes and Tour de Corse. But as with all sister events, this is no slo-mo re-run – it's genuine flat-out competition and cars do get hurt. Plenty of classes including moderns, from Classic Florio through Early Classic, Early Modern to Late Classic. There are also Sports, Tour and Vintage Rallye for those who like to take things a little more gently, plus a shorter 'Rookie Rallye' event over first two days only.

// <http://targa.com.au>

## Grand Prix Monaco Historique

9-11 May

Everyone wants to race at Monaco, but spaces are limited. Held every two years and now in its ninth edition, it's cramped and costly, but this is where Stirling Moss beat faster Ferraris in his Lotus 18 in 1961. Organiser is the same as for the GP, and both historic and modern rallies. Seven races from Pre-war Voiturettes and GP cars and 1952-'55 Sports Cars to Pre-1979 F1.

// [www.acm.mc](http://www.acm.mc)

## Mille Miglia

15-18 May

Almost impossible to get into, chaotic to cover and stifled by traffic jams – think *The Italian Job* in more rural surroundings. But, while it's now a regularity rally, it has its own magic as it shares route and name with the 1000-mile road races of the '50s, when Moss and 'Jenks' averaged almost 100mph in 1955 – on public roads... Technically, any car of a type that ran in the Mille up to 1957 (when it was stopped) is eligible. But organisers have the choice of an oversubscribed entry, with works racers from likes of Jaguar and Alfa, and registrations close in December. Good luck for next year...

// [www.1000miglia.eu](http://www.1000miglia.eu)

## Modena Cento Ore Classic

3-8 June

Four days and 1000km between Modena, heart of Motor Valley, and Firenze, cradle of Renaissance, with 12 special stages in the Apennines and races at Imola and Mugello, 100km of circuit races and 100km of special stages. There's a regularity section on the same route, with 12 average speed trials on closed roads and timed laps on circuit, plus a new night stop by the sea in Forte dei Marmi.

// [www.modenacentooreclassic.it](http://www.modenacentooreclassic.it)