

News



The right drive: 911 S, 180 hp, and about 145 mph (230 km/h)



Original: Lots of special features and all-leather upholstery

THE 911 S OF STEVE MCQUEEN

COOLEST CAR ON THE BLOCK

The legendary racing film *Le Mans* (1971) starred Steve McQueen alongside a Porsche 911 S. The King of Cool liked his Car of Cool so much that he decided he had to have it in real life. Still in excellent condition, the 911 S will be auctioned off in Monterey, California, on August 19/20.

Vintage car buffs are already abuzz about the upcoming auction of the 911 S once owned by Steve McQueen in what is sure to be one of the highlights of the renowned vintage car week in and around California's Pebble Beach this summer. The excitement that the original slate gray 911 generated when it appeared at the Concours d'Elegance on Amelia Island this March testified to the enduring fascination and worldwide interest in the iconic sports car. "*Le Mans* is the best racing film ever made, and there could be no more charismatic owner than Steve McQueen," says Rob Myers, the founder of RM Auctions, the classic-car auction house in charge of the sale.

The 911 S was featured during many exciting racing scenes in the movie; perhaps most

indelibly etched in film-lovers' minds is the sequence in which McQueen, in his role as Michael Delaney, drives through the French countryside, musing about life, death, and car racing on his way to the Le Mans course. A man and a car—a perfect match. Indeed, sports-car enthusiast McQueen felt so at home behind the wheel of the 911 S that he insisted on personally chauffeuring the film crew around even after filming had finished for the day.

When the shoot ended, McQueen decided to keep the car and had the 911 S shipped to his home. He sold it a year later, and it remained in the hands of its second owner for 34 years. It is in excellent condition today. Equipped with a range of extra features including all-leather upholstery, an electric sunroof, a



Looking back: Steve McQueen with his 911 S during the film shoot

Blaupunkt AM/FM radio, tinted windows, and air-conditioning, the car originally sold for DM 30,267 (then equivalent to about \$8,300) and is expected to bring a record price at auction this August. ●