



7 to 17 October 2019

CARRERA IBERIA THE DAILY DISPATCH



Rally ^{de} Globe
VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB

Day 6 Trujillo - Douro (433km)

13 October 2019



photos: garandbrown.co.uk

BREAK FOR THE BORDER

Another dawn start, another cobbled square, and another fantastic day on the road ahead. So far this *Carrera Iberia* has done exactly what it said on the tin.

Once the cars had left the old town of Trujillo, they were straight onto the high quality Spanish roads, that we've all come to love, and made their way to the first Passage Control in the hilltop village of Monroy. This sleepy little pit stop outside of the Cafe Casino provided some great coffee and also gave Charles Stuart-Menteth a chance to fill his pipe and, along with wife Nicola, grab a quick snapshot under the old castle gates.

A run alongside and across the embalse de Jose Maria Oriol, took us to the first Regularity of the day, the so called Buena Vista, which was a 5.5km section hugging the contours of the the cloud covered low hills, around the town of Perales del Puerto.



Alan and Tina Beardshaw, 1965 Aston Martin DB5

Photos: gerardbrown.co.uk



David and Jo Roberts, 1963 Triumph TR4

Our time in La Piel de Toro was coming to an end and, by way of an adios, the ensuing Passage Control in Almazara San Pedro saw us on our way with a great spread of cakes, macaroons and coffee.

Whilst most crews had managed to successfully refuel themselves at this little cafe, Bertrand and Charlotte van Houtte had forgotten one small thing and were spotted by the side of the road soon after, topping up their Bentley with a jerry can.

From here all roads seemed to lead to Portugal and, bang on cue, we made the crossing into the land of the three f's (fado, football and Fatima) which was just the way we like it. Seamless and unremarkable.

Our first task in our second country, was to get ourselves to lunch and the Time Control at the Pousada Serra de Estrela which, at 1200m was both wet and cool.

The road up to the Pousada, which also hosts the Covilho International Hill Climb should have been stunning, but the mist put paid to that and, the first rain we've seen so far on the event was a most unwelcome visitor.

After lunch, the second Regularity, the so called 'crooked road' showcased wild Portugal at its best. We were low enough for the rain filled clouds not to bother us yet high enough to enjoy the rugged beauty of these amazing hills (the Serra de Estrela) and we hope that Steve McKelvie - rally guru - would have been proud of this section.

From the finish of the Regularity, we paradoxically enjoyed some wide open views and some of the narrowest (and cobbled) streets we've ever seen, through the village of Folgosinho en route to the Passage Control in Celerico da Beira which was now all that lay between us and the well appointed Six Senses Hotel Douro and a well earned rest day.



Andrew and Gina Long, 1937 Bentley Derby VDP

Today is David Roberts' birthday, one of *Rally the Globe's* founding members and vice chairman, we wish him many more happy miles of endurance rallying.

With a whole wine region on the doorstep, tomorrow might see one or two crews taking advantage of a late breakfast.

Gerardus Mercator

Gerardus Mercator, *Dispatch* reporter



Clint and Dawn Smith, 1929 Bentley Speed Six