



2 to 12 October 2021

CARRERA ITALIA THE DAILY DISPATCH



Rally ^{the} Globe
VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB

Day 9 Il Borro to Santa Margherita Ligure (364.2 km) 11 October 2021



Photos: gearadrivem.co.uk

8.31am sharp saw the rally pull out of the bucolic Il Borro estate and make its way through a sleepy Tuscan landscape. With the hint of some good weather hanging tantalisingly in the air, we were once again heading for the seaside. But this time we were on the other side of Italy - looking to dip our feet in the Ligurian Sea.

But first we had some of the finest Chianti *campagna* to get through. This region is quintessentially Italian and, rumour has it, they produce some sort of fruit based drink here. With evidence backing this hunch all around us as we passed through villages with names that we've almost certainly seen before. Somewhere in the wine cellar perhaps?

So, a succession of full bodied and well rounded towns such as Gaiole in Chianti led us to the first Regularity along the roads around Radda in Chianti. After which there was a gastronomic theme as we enjoyed more amazing roads threaded between miles of olive groves, heavy with fruit.

Taken together the morning was like driving through the menu of your favourite restaurant. But this cultural tour didn't stop with the kitchen and, skirting the environs of Vinci, we were interested to learn that it was the one time home to possibly its most famous son. The polymath, Leonardo.

The Time Control in Bellosguardo offered us the chance to grab a quick coffee and a snack before the long pull



1957 Porsche 356A Speedster of Bruno and Corina Lang-Mathis



1969 Mercedes-Benz 280 SL of Reto Mebes and Hans-Jürgen Benze



Manuel and Irene Dubs, 1965 Ford Mustang V8 Convertible



Keith and Norah Ashworth, 1927 Bentley 4 1/2 Le Mans



Mick and Grace de Haas, 1966 Mercedes-Benz 280 SL

to the lunch halt which was sandwiched between two Tests run through the grounds of the lofty Renaissance Tuscany hotel in the hills overlooking Lucca. Il Ciocco 1 and Il Ciocco 2 gave the cars and their crews a thorough workout over more than 6km of closed road hill climbs. With a squad of local marshals keeping watch and the sun beating down through the trees, this was surely a midday session to savour.

Once they'd finished the second of these Tests and their engines had cooled a little, the cars were then sent down the road to the last Regularity of the day. A section taking them through the beautiful countryside around Viibiana. And here it was good to see the 48hr car back with us. Dick Appleton and Paul Heal were today tasked with manning a timing point instead of looking for workarounds and solutions to the problems so often thrown up by roadworks and any manner of local difficulties.

From Viibiana some of the route into Santa Margherita was straight down the autostrada, which afforded most of us an easy and quick passage to the hotel. But, for Ean & Alison Lewin things weren't so simple as their Escort was playing up. John and Gill Cotton stopped to lend a hand, it was, in Gill's words "sounding a bit 'ruff'". Fortunately the sweep crew of Jack Amies and Russ Smith were quickly on site and diagnosed a faulty alternator, easily replaced once they reached the night halt. So, one borrowed battery and a set of jump leads later, they were rolling again and arrived at the Grand Hotel Miramare just before the sun bid us farewell.

Unbelievably tomorrow is the last day of the *Carrera Italia* and we're hoping to welcome a special guest to the finish line.

Gerardus Mercator

Gerardus Mercator, *Dispatch* reporter



Dieter and Hildegard Baumhaeckel, 1961 Volvo PV544

Photos: gerardfrom.co.uk