

# Bugattis in the rain

Festival Bugatti Molsheim 2008

By Martijn Visser



Our memories of the 2007 festival were still filled with great weather / beautiful Bugatti's and friendly people... But the weather forecast for the 2008 festival was not so promising. This time we had planned to stay for a long weekend around Molsheim, and we checked the weather forecast twice a day in the days before our departure to the south.. one thing was for sure... We would need our raincoats...

When we reached Belgium it started to rain and the water kept on falling from the sky until we arrived at our destination. We dropped off our luggage at the Hotel and went straight to our friends... A warm welcome.. and the next sentence... They do not expect such a good weather during the weekend.. Specially on the Saturday (the main day of the event).

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of September**

On Friday around 13:00 it is possible to register for the event. This year we decided to become a member of the EBA (The organizers of the festival) so we could attend to the trip on a more active way. The great thing about the EBA is that all people with an interest in Bugatti can become a member.

The weather was not so bad, and around 13:15 the first Bugatti arrived... Before you know it the area around "Hostellerie du Pur Sang" is filled with Bugatti's and "Bugatti friends". Some of the cars are present almost every year (The type 40 of Jacques Paul was participating for the 21st time) .. and other cars are showing up for the first time (like Eric Koux his type 57S recreation).

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of September**

We arrived about half a hour before the departure at the "Hostellerie du Pur Sang". The fields around the building were already filled with people and cars. Some people came the same day so new cars and faces were spotted. Minutes before we departed it started to rain. Extra rain coats were loaded in the cars and we departed as planned with destination "Rocher de Dabo". When all Bugatti's were on their way the normal cars could follow... Before we know it we are driving behind a string of 3 Bugattis... A Type 55, a Type 57SC Atlantic (recreation) and a Type 57 Atalante. An amazing sight to follow

these great looking cars through small French villages... Lots of people are looking in front of their houses to the cars passing... Some of their parents have probably worked on these cars when they were built in the Bugatti factory in the 1920's and 30's. When we left the villages behind us and drove through the mountains it started to become foggy. The sight of following an Atlantic through the fog is something I will never forget. When we arrive at Dabo we were directed to a big parking place near a sports hall. Due to the rain and fog there is a change of plan. "Roches de Dabo" is an observation point with a small chapel on top of a mountain. Due to the rain and fog it was wisely decided by the organization of the event to skip that part. In the cantina we were treated with warm coffee and French croissants.

Our next destination.... "Col du Donon" where lunch was served. This part of the trip was mainly going through the woods and following more mountains.. The parking place in front of the restaurant was "Bugatti parking only" for the day... So we had to park our small Fiat next to the road. The whole restaurant was filled with Bugatti people.. No chair reservations possible.. We found a spot at a table with a German and a Belgium guy. What was hard to imagine when driving a modern car is how it feels to drive through the rain in an 80 year old open sports car.. One of the participants decided to drive without his glasses in order to have a better view on the road.

Around 15:30 we left again with destination Molsheim. This last part of the trip was only going down hills. When we arrive at Molsheim most of the Bugattis were already parked in the street behind the city gate. Most participants were going straight to one of the restaurants to warm themselves up with coffee or whisky.

17.00 time to present the cars to the public... Each car was announced by Paul Kestler to the public while stopping in front of the city hall. The last car in the row was a Veyron owned by the Bugatti factory.



### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> on September.**

The alarm went off... We opened the curtains and.... Blue sky !!!!!..... We decided to skip the official Breakfast (Something I still regret when I look at the pictures others made) and the ceremony at the Bugatti family graves. At 11:00 we arrived at the "Foundation Bugatti" for the prize giving and closure of the event.

Despite the rain on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> Festival was a big success. In total 44 Bugatti's participated in the festival. It was even better organized than in previous years.... And one that for sure will be referred to in the future. As always we are looking forward to the 2009 edition of the festival.

The pictures presented in this article were made by the following persons: Jaap Horst, Frans Hofman, Mark Hofman, Jeroen Vossen and Martijn Visser























Type 13 #BC 072



Type 30 #4108



Type 30 #4637



Type 35 #4799



Type 35 #4928



Type 35 (Pur Sang?)



Type 35 (Pur Sang?)



Type 35A #4780



Type 37 #37210



Type 37 #37224



Type 37 #37234



Type 38 #38333



Type 40 #40221



Type 40 #40636



Type 40 #40642



Type 40 #40657



Type 40 #40671



Type 40 #40842



Type 40A #40930



Type 43 #43183



Type 43 #43196



Type 43R #43275



Type 44 #44100



Type 44 #44931



Type 46 S #46340



Type 46 S #46583



Type 49 #49274



Type 51 (Pur Sang ?)



Type 51 (Pur Sang ?)



Type 51 (Pur Sang ?)



Type 51R



Type 55R #55227



Type 57 #57524



Type 57 #57598



Type 57 #57662



Type 57 Galibier #57225



Type 57 Galibier #57761



Type 57 SC #57 BC 116



Type 57 SC Atlantic #57659



Type 57 Ventoux #57286





Type 57 Ventoux #57628



Type 57G Tank #57574



Type 101 #101502



Veyron nr 55