



## Ferrari 250GT SWB Berlinetta Speciale Bertone



**Ferrari** had one of its most successful cars and Pininfarina their most beautiful designs with the 250GT SWB - a true icon with a sporting heritage to match its stunning good looks. The 250GT SWB was first introduced at the 1959 Paris Motorshow and was an evolutionary design of the 250 GT Interim of which 7 were built. The reduction in wheelbase resulted in the removal of the rear quarter window which resulted in a much more purposeful and balanced look.

As has always been the case Ferrari clients tend to be individualistic people and many want something completely unique to them. Such is the case with chassis no. 1739 GT, the third 250GT SWB of the "production line". The 250GT Berlinetta Speciale Bertone would be the first of two designs by Bertone on the SWB chassis and was commissioned by Dottore Enrico Wax of Genoa, Italy. Wax with his partner were successful alcohol importers and imported

Johnny Walker Scotch Whiskey to Italy, which it just so happened was Enzo's favorite.

Chassis number 1739 GT was actually designated to be a works race car but given a timely visit to the factory by Wax, Ferrari assigned the third chassis to his speciale friend and loyal client. Thus the Speciale Bertone got the hot 280hp engine. Sent to the Bertone carrozzeria on the 7th January 1960 it would be only the second Ferrari to be clothed in a Bertone design. The design duties were assigned to a very young new designer called Giorgetto Giugiaro, it would be Giugiaro's first design at Bertone.

Wax was considered one of Italy's wealthiest individuals and had a history of ordering several unique Ferrari's. He had a taste for lots of chrome and brightwork as well as stainless steel. The was accommodated in the design with a brushed stainless steel roof, rockers and

### 1959 Ferrari 250GT SWB Berlinetta Speciale Bertone

- Chassis no. 1739 GT
- Designed by Giorgetto Giugiaro
- 280 hp competition engine
- Built for Dottore Enrico Wax



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1959

Ferrari

250 GT SWB

Berlinetta Speciale Bertone

Italian

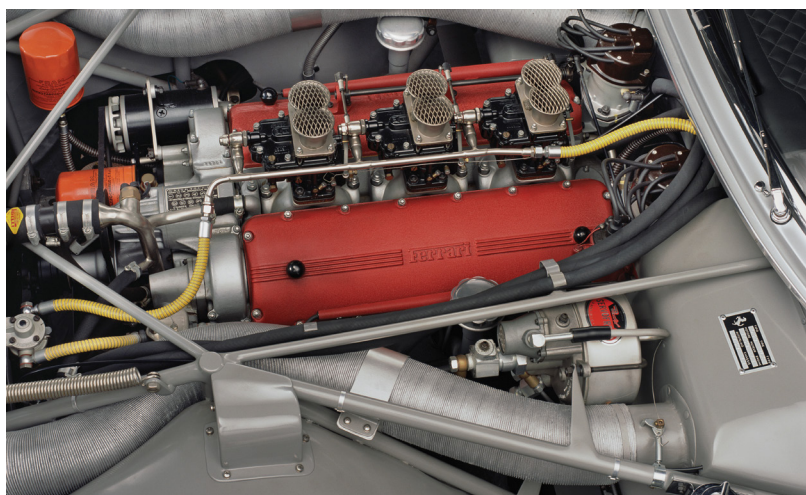
Exotic



front and rear valance panels. There were many other unique features incorporated into the design including; a rear window defroster - the first for Ferrari, and the "clam shell" bonnet assembly. The design was considered very successful at the time and Battista Farina stated he "borrowed" some features for his future designs.

Wax sold the car in '61. It passed into the hands of the Tacchini family and then made its way to America in the '70's. It was restored in the early eighties by Steven Tillack. A Hollywood screenwriter by the name of Lance Hill, bought the car in 1998 and it was restored again. It then transferred to a noted collector and hit the show circuit. It was placed on sale with RM Auctions in 2009 but was passed in. Given its provenance and the importance in the history of automotive design this was more a case of the impact of the GFC than the asking price being inflated.

**Rod Halligan**



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<b>Year</b>	1959
<b>Design</b>	Bertone
<b>Designed by</b>	Giorgetto Giugiaro
<b>Launched at</b>	1960 Turin Motor Show
<b>Chassis no.</b>	1739 GT
<b>Built for</b>	Dottore Enrico Wax

#### ENGINE

<b>Configuration</b>	60° V 12
<b>Layout</b>	Front Longitudinal
<b>Induction</b>	Natural
<b>Valvetrain</b>	2 valves, SOHC
<b>Fuel feed</b>	3 Weber 36 DCZ/3 Carburetors
<b>Displacement</b>	2953cc 180.2 cu in
<b>Bore</b>	73.0 mm 2.9 in
<b>Stroke</b>	58.8 mm 2.3 in
<b>Compression</b>	9.2:1
<b>Power</b>	209 KW 280 bhp @ 7000 rpm

#### BODY

Aluminum and Stainless Steel body on elliptical-section steel tube chassis	
<b>Weight</b>	1100 kg 2425.1 lbs
<b>Length</b>	4430 mm 174.4 in
<b>Width</b>	1980 mm 78 in
<b>Height</b>	1130 mm 44.5 in
<b>Wheelbase</b>	2400 mm 94.5 in
<b>Front track</b>	1378 mm 54.3 in
<b>Rear track</b>	1374 mm 54.1 in

#### DRIVE

<b>RWD</b>	4 speed Manual
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#### SUSPENSION

<b>Front</b>	double wishbones, coil springs
<b>Rear</b>	live axle, semi-elliptic leaf springs

#### BRAKES/STEERING

<b>Brakes</b>	discs front and rear
<b>Steering</b>	worm and wheel

#### PERFORMANCE

<b>BHP/Litre</b>	95 bhp / liter
<b>Power to weight</b>	0.25 bhp / kg



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