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# The Art Of The Classic Sports Car: Pace And Grace



## Synopsis

Sports cars are the athletes of the automotive world. Always nimble and quick, often powerful, sports cars fly where other cars lumber, and dash where others plod. The definition of a sports car is somewhat fluid, and the question "What was the first sports car?" will often incite a heated debate among enthusiasts. Still, most car fans feel that they know a sports car when they see one and when asked to name a few will rattle off a remarkably similar list of name plates: Jaguar, Corvette, Triumph, MG, Aston Martin, Ferrari, Lotus, Alfa-Romeo, BMW. Pressed harder, more exotic and obscure brands will emerge: DB, Alpine, Bugatti, Lancia. Sports cars have offered road and track excitement for nearly 100 years. The original cars evolved for racing, but their appeal and popularity ensured that production versions were soon available for those whose sporting intents never left the boulevard or winding back road. Along the way, sports cars became more comfortable, sometimes almost practical, and above all handsome. But never have they been boring. *The Art of the Classic Sports Car* offers enthusiasts a beautifully illustrated review of several decades of high-performance cars, featuring cars from around the globe all shot in the studio to ensure a handsome and desirable book. Each featured car includes a profile discussing the car's place in sports car history along with technical and performance specs as well as a smattering of historical images and period ads.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

James Mann is one of the world's leading car and motorcycle photographers, with more than 20 years of experience shooting for enthusiast publications, the motor industry, and businesses around the world. His work has appeared within and on the covers of more than 50 books and has

provided stunning visuals for numerous magazines, including Classic and Sports Car, CAR magazine, Forza, The Sunday Times, and Automobile magazine as well as being chosen to photograph the British Auto Legends stamps for the Royal Mail. His advertising clients include Aston Martin, BMW, and Toyota, among others. Visit his website at [www.jamesmann.com](http://www.jamesmann.com) Journalist and broadcaster Stuart Codling has worked in motorsports for over a decade, covering sports cars in the United States before joining F1 Racing, the world's best-selling Formula 1 magazine. He has ridden pillion with World Superbike Champion Neil Hodgson, gone snowboarding with (former) FIA President Max Mosley, and been sworn at by ex-Ferrari F1 driver Eddie Irvine. He has appeared as an F1 expert on TV and radio, has hosted for Renault F1, and contributes to F1 Racing, Autosport, and Autocar. He is the author of the Motorbooks bestsellers Art of the Formula 1 Race Car and Real Racers. Read more about him on his website: [www.stuartcodling.com](http://www.stuartcodling.com).

It's a great book !

The Art Of The Classic Sports Car: Pace And Gracel just got this book a few days ago and I have finished but I can't help but going back, re-reading and glossing over the mouth-watering beautiful vehicles featured within as usual Mann 's beautiful photography and spreads. What a great Selection of Vehicles, Although I would have loved for one of the Corvettes featured within the book on the cover, that Jag is gorgeous, I like the 58' And 63' Corvette (split window coupe), the Datsun Z, The Marcos car are some of my favorites, but you'll catch a Sunbeam Tiger, Mg's, Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar, Fiat Dino, Ferrari Dino among many others all beautifully positioned and photographed. Even cars which to my eyes are not very pleasing the photos make them pleasing. A wonderful pictorial journey history of some of the greatest cars! Superb job.

Something about the pictures in The Art of the Classic Sports Car, written by Stuart Codling with photography by James Mann, makes the featured cars seem like so much more than transportation. They are works of art. For most of us, a car is a means to get from point A to point B. But when a special car drives by and catches your eye, the aesthetics and engineering and sheer fun make you forget about practicality. Focusing primarily on mid-twentieth century sports cars, The Art of the Classic Sports Car covers makers you know and makers you might not (at least that I didn't know). Some of these might be seen prowling your neighborhood streets--I still see 240Zs from time to time--but most of them will only be seen in a museum or auction house. A couple of these have sold in recent years for millions. The text is interesting, giving some history, anecdotes, and technical

information about each model. But the stars of the show are the photos. The cars are pristine, and the photos bring out their glory. I love the fact that these cars, for the most part, are not "luxurious" as we tend to think of cars today, with the bells and whistles that tend to be superfluous. The luxury is in the clear craftsmanship and love of design that is reflected. If you are a car lover, pick up this book, but before you do be prepared for your heart to race a little. You might also want your wife to change the passwords on your bank account, too, so you can't give in to the temptation to run out and try to find one of these beauties to buy. Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the complimentary electronic review copy!

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