

Autofficina Omega: The Garage for Antique Sports Cars from around the World

There's a landmark for antique cars a stone's throw away from Vicenza, the largest garage in Italy with a spare parts department that combines technology with experience in restoration.



The Autofficina Omega in Zané (Vicenza) is a proper clinic for antique cars: when a car arrives at the garage it undergoes a diagnosis that leads to the design and on-site production of non-functional pieces only to be returned to the customer fully tried and tested. Briefly, the car is ready to get back on the road. Experience, technology and competence are the ingredients necessary to fix old cars that are out of production: one must be familiar with engine mechanisms and transmissions, especially the mechanic ones, to make them to measure from scratch as opposed to mass-producing them. And it is actually thanks to Corrado Patella, who began working in the workshop aged 14 before becoming a competitive racer. His experience has led the Autofficina Omega to become not only the largest workshop in Italy, but also a garage sought out by clients from around the world.

Corrado Patella's workshop is truly representative of a passion that has grown over the years. He always liked the roar of the engine, so much so that he would chase it on his bicycle for hundreds of kilometres. He began working at age 14, studying in the evening. His passion immediately led him to concrete results: at 18, he was hired at a dealership to follow the sports cars division and aged 22 he began working on races as a driver, breaking a record that has since remained unbeaten. This led him to specialise in sports cars' engines then classic cars, beginning to succeed as a mechanic and setting standards for all other drivers who competed. At a point, he left the track, opening his own

garage and following cars and their customers from all over the world. The vintage sports cars market is very healthy and active niche sector and the same clients seek Patella, to trust their highly valuable cars of high sentimental value in his experienced hands.

Corrado Patella, with his son Guido by his side, has succeeded in creating the largest car garage in Italy, featuring a whole operational chain dedicated to car repairs. The design and production of sports cars' engines are contained within the halls of Zané, near Vicenza, where they are recreated, melting the metal and following precise heat treatment. Thus, Patella does not turn to third parties, producing everything in house. He has a large stock that reconciles prices even for the replacement of small pieces that are produced on a large scale for various clients who need them later. Everything is then reassembled, tested and fine-tuned: a full-scale restoration. This complex process can lead to a high quality result: the car's components appear original even in the eyes of the most experienced technicians. "We also possess the advantage of being able to respond quickly to any customer's needs", Patella explains. "We perform immediate analysis and there is not need to order anything – we have everything in-house".

Thus, his clients come from all over the world: drivers, racers, nobles and collectors, extravagant clients who are affectionately connected to their vintage car. But even if they define 'vintage', these cars, thanks to Patella's intervention, continue to live and are essentially immortal. "They have to keep running and functioning fully according to Corrado Patella. "Thus, I call myself a witness of the past in the future: these cars are not produced anymore and you have to know their every small mechanical detail for them to arrive into the future perfectly. Now, I am transferring the knowledge to my son Guido, who started working in the workshop with me after breathing the air in it throughout his childhood. You need passion and knowledge to excel in this area."