

## INSIGHTS INTO CLUB LIFE – THE PRIVATE COLLECTORS CLUB



### EUROPE 1,500 MILES TOUR: FROM NORFOLK TO MUNICH

*Experiencing the first flying car in the Netherlands, tasting Palatine “Saumagen” at Helmut Kohl’s regulars’ table, or enjoying a fascinating art and car collection at Lake Constance – these are just a few of the highlights from the multi-day Europe 1,500 Miles Tour from England to Munich, which the Private Collectors Club organized in mid-July 2018.*

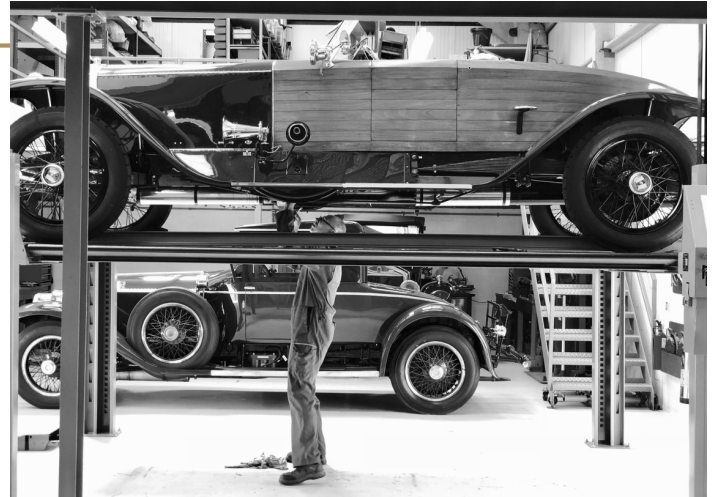
The club has made it its goal to connect collectors and enthusiasts around the world, enable individual glimpses into private collections, enjoy regional delicacies at dinners and tastings, and create extraordinary experiences on one- or multi-day discovery tours. The idea for a customized, 1,500-mile tour through Europe was born in August

2017 at a meeting in Pebble Beach, California, where a club member from South America expressed his wish to drive his 55-year-old Mercedes 300 SL Cabrio from England to Germany and get to know the countries and people along the way. Other club members joined the Europe 1,500 Miles Tour for certain days or stages.



### Stage 1: England – France – Belgium – Germany

The perfect starting point for the tour: “The Gunton Arms” in northern Norfolk, a quaint, typically English pub with guest rooms, approximately a two-hour drive to the north-west of London, situated in an expansive historical park. The owner of the pub is an avid art collector, allowing visitors to admire works by Damien Hirst, Lucian Freud, or Tracey Emin, among others, and enjoy local ale and steak from the wood-burning barbecue on the evening before the tour starts, as their cars park in front of sculptures by Sol Le Witt, Dan Graham, or Ulrich Ruckreim. Here, close to Norwich, the 300 SL slumbers in a garage and awaits its great excursion. We start early, because we are facing the longest stage of the tour first thing, tackling about 800 km on day one. The roadbook takes drivers from England across France and Belgium to Düsseldorf, the club’s home. First, we need to make headway to reach the European mainland. Still, the journey to the tunnel takes us past a renowned restoration business for pre-war vehicles, where we can admire the extraordinary Rolls Royce Silver Ghost Schapiro Schebera Skiff from 1914 with its “boat tail”, a wooden attachment that resembles an old Riva boat, before it is shipped back to its owner in the USA follow-



ing its beauty sleep. At the Channel Tunnel, the tour attracts the attention of the English and French border guards, who marvel at the cars and take souvenir pictures. The drive continues, briefly across picturesque Bruges in Belgium, and then heads towards North Rhine-Westphalia. When we arrive in the evening, we are greeted by German club members with cool beers and dinner. This is a heartfelt reunion for the South American and one of the German collectors, who last saw each other six years ago in Mexico at La Carrera Panamericana.



### Stage 2: Germany – The Netherlands/Flying Car

Additional teams join the second stage in the Netherlands for a day trip, because the schedule includes a special highlight: The first flying car in the world! Today, the club is granted an exclusive glimpse behind the scenes at the company PAL-V, who worked on the flying vehicle for 18 years and is now launching a limited pre-edition. We stop off in Heusden beforehand, an idyllic little fortress town by the streams of the Meuse. The country’s herring season has begun, and the “Nieuwe Haring” have arrived – which gives us the pleasure of enjoying a culinary treat and a generous sip of Jenever with the warm welcome we

receive from Dutch friends of the club. Enchanted by Heusden’s historic flair, we head to the future to meet the “Liberty”: A car that flies, a plane that drives. The CEO personally greets the club, gives us an introduction, and answers curious, incredulous, and critical questions – after all, the dream of the flying car isn’t entirely new, and quite a few have failed at this project. In the end, we are convinced and make our way to Breda Airport, where club members with a pilot’s license have the opportunity to take off with a gyrocopter in an accompanied test flight – a demonstration of the flight technology on which the worldwide innovation is based. And we’re off to enjoy the lofty heights!





### Stage 3: Germany – Nurburgring and Deidesheim

The third day's stage leads us through the Eifel to the Nürburgring Classics. A glance at the legendary "Green Hell" is a must for travelers from afar! Here, the pleasure of a German currywurst merges with the sound of historic motors. The tour continues through idyllic wine-growing regions, the Ahr, Rheingau, Rhinehessen, and the Palatinate up to Deidesheim, which is home to the excellent "Reichsrat von Buhl" winery, where we stop for a tasting. The French cellarer previously worked at the Bollinger Champagne House and now creates first-class wine and sparkling wine in Germany. Our next stop is the Deidesheimer Hof; it is the evening before the first anniversary of the death of Helmut Kohl. Here, we meet party representatives and followers from Berlin who have come for a memorial ceremony in Speyer. We dine on the former chancellor's favorite dish, which even international state visitors were unable to avoid:



Palatine "Saumagen", or pig's stomach. Collectors from around the world sit together with political companions at the chancellor's regulars' table, swapping stories about German history, the wall, and reunification. The greatest experience of the tour for one of the collectors, as we will later find out.

### Stage 4: Germany – Mercedes-Benz Museum Stuttgart and Black Forest

Germany is an automotive stronghold, so day four takes us to Stuttgart. This is where the Mercedes 300 SL Cabriolet left the assembly line in 1962 and was directly shipped to the USA; the reunion with the car's birthplace triggers an emotional reaction from the owner, and the souvenir photo in front of the Mercedes-Benz Museum is like a knightly accolade in car history. Up until this point, the vintage car has completed about 1,500 km without any issues – this fills even a full-blooded South American with pride for German engineering craftsmanship!

We continue towards Baden-Baden and deep into the southern Black Forest, to the region beyond Freiburg, winding up at the restaurant and winery "Schwarzer Adler und Weingut Franz Keller". Here, regional delights and a little wine tasting await. The recommendation to stop here despite the great distance has proven worthwhile –the Europe 1,500 Tour awards five stars! Then it is time to expend our newly won energy, and what better way to do this than scaling the 1,284-meter-high viewpoint Schauinsland, where we can watch a beautiful summer sunset?





**Stage 5: Germany – Bodensee, Allgau and Munich**

We begin the Sunday morning in Singen, close to Lake Constance. Here, we receive a warm welcome from Hermann and Gabi Maier, who have opened their private automobile and art collection to the public with great care and attention to detail. In founding the MAC

(Museum Art & Cars), they have created a gem in the collector’s world and for the region. We have the privilege of enjoying a private tour and discover that the changing exhibitions – depending on the topic – are enhanced by art and cars on loan from other collections. We marvel at the “Strong Women” exhibition, where we find ourselves by the Benz Patent Motor Car. This is the vehicle which Bertha Benz, pioneer of the automobile industry, drove on her own down a stretch between Mannheim and Pforzheim in August 1888 to prove that long-distance drives were possible with the car.



With her entrepreneurial, technical, and financial efforts, she created the necessary prerequisites for her husband Carl Benz’s inventions. Additionally, we see works by Polish artist Tamara de Lempicka, who liked to present herself as a diva in a green Bugatti, although she herself owned a yellow Citroen

5 hp. The original can also be admired on site.

The exhibition continues with the Audi Sport quattro with which Michelle



Mouton from France won her World Championship title, a BMW i8 Art Car designed by Swiss performance artist Corinne Sutter, pictures by Nina Nolte, and a documentary on daring women participating in motorcycle races in the 1920’s, just to name a few highlights. An exquisitely selected delight!

Our recommendation:

MAC - Museum Art & Cars

Parkstraße 1, 78224 Singen

[www.museum-art-cars.com](http://www.museum-art-cars.com)

Exhibition “Strong Women” runs until Oct 28th, 2018

The tour then takes us along the sunny Bodensee and into the picturesque Allgäu, where we stop at a small dairy to enjoy a typical “Brotzeit” with herb cheese and fresh buttermilk. We see nature at its most beautiful and choose a route that brings us closer to our destination in Munich along the hilly pre-alpine landscape and lakes. In the evening, happy and enriched by numerous experiences, we cross the finish line in front of the “Bayerischer Hof” after 1,500 miles.

**GERMANY 1,000 Tour 2019**

From May 12th to 17th, 2019, The Private Collectors Club will embark on a five-day tour from Berlin to the Alps. Under the motto “Experience Germany from its most beautiful side”, the tour offers exclusive insights, regional delicacies, and plenty of driving fun through stunning landscapes, as well as a special “driving experience”. The tour of approximately 1,000 miles/ 1,600 kilometers is suitable for reliable vintage cars and national as well as international teams who have plenty of experience and enjoy (re)discovering Germany. The Germany 1,000 Tour will be run in German and English. Club members and interested guests from around the world are welcome to participate if they register/apply by October 31st, 2018 at the latest at: [ff@private-collectors.club](mailto:ff@private-collectors.club)

