

Mountain Climbing in Switzerland

Bernina Gran Turismo

For those who just can't wait for ski season to start before getting their fix of mountain air and scenery, or for those who just like to run free on sinuous mountain roads over the space of a convivial weekend in a friendly and intimate ambiance complete with an international cast of characters, there is the Bernina Gran Turismo. Good cars, good company, good roads, good food and plenty of fresh mountain air.

Organised as part of a planned recreation of the St Moritz Automobile week (Internationale St. Moritzer Automobilwoche) above the town that refers to itself as "The Top of The World", the Bernina pass looms above at 2,322 metres and participants tackled it in practice on the weekend of 21-23 September, followed by three timed runs for an overall score. It's more of a mountain climb than a hillclimb.



The competition element is for cars from pre-war to mid '80s and requires full FIA safety equipment, while the regularity section seems to attract a much greater number of competition cars with only the requirement that they be road legal. This allowed many to bring out cars from their collection that are not usually raced and cut loose in them. While Daniel Perfetti (below) took the competition category, with a best time of 3:28.65 in his Lancia Stratos, one of five present at the event, absolute fastest time was achieved in the regularity section when Marco Lazzarini (above) ran the 5.9km course with an altitude rise of 452 metres, in 3:16.84 in his Lancia Delta S4

Left: Local man Martin Halusa drove his Bugatti 5C in the competition section

There was also a contingent of classic motorbikes tackling the run. Photos Courtesy Bernina Gran Turismo

