

From Doris Day to Lady Gaga via Madonna

In the early 1990's I sold a TR6 for a dreadful example of an S1. I had huge fun in her but when I pulled into my drive one day and the whole bonnet assembly simply carried on into my hedge I decided to trade up and buy a Chimaera...which was simply faultless and brilliant until I sold it seven years later. On reflection, even though I sold it for a AM V8 Volante I missed the TVR. It was the only car I have ever owned which made me take the long way home....and always with a smile on my face.

In 2007 I took delivery of a Porsche 911/997S. It was great for a few months but once I had mastered it I found it lovely but immensely boring. It was a bit like Doris Day.....it did everything right, all the curves were in the right places but was never going to get you into trouble! The longer I had it the more I thought about my old Chimaera.

Last year saw a 1997 Chimaera 4.0 with 8000 miles on the clock which had only had two owners. She was immaculate and I bought her in a heartbeat. The Porsche became my wife's shopping car until I outed it, something which I have never, ever, regretted. I felt rejuvenated and felt I had swapped Doris Day for Madonna....not to be taken home to mother but sooo much fun!

The only thing I missed about the Porsche was the acceleration. Down at Racing Green earlier this year I met someone who had a Tuscan and a Chimaera. He was selling the Tuscan. It transpired that Racing Green had fitted an SC Power Supercharger which had transformed the Chimaera and made the Tuscan redundant. A chat with Bryan Sutton at Racing Green and Colin and David Harvey at SC (great people, real enthusiasts) convinced me to do the same.

SC's CAD work ensures the new kit fitted easily in engine bay and it certainly looks the business. On the road, the change has been transformational. She is simply the fastest accelerating car I have ever driven. The power kicks in very smoothly right from the off and is there right through the rev range. I am completely stunned by the electric performance. Surprisingly, she is almost easier to drive in traffic, with operating temperatures just as before.

After running the Chimaera for a couple of months I am pleased that I had Nitrons fitted at the same time as the supercharger (still fiddling with the set-up) but find the decision not to upgrade the brakes to have been the right one. Track days beckon in 2012.

Madonna has now morphed into Lady Gaga!

ps SC Power has a 5.0ltr Griff in which they have fitted an even bigger supercharger. I can't even begin to think of an equivalent female singer to compare it to!