
THE RED COLLECTION

MERCEDES-BENZ 300 SL COUPE 'GULLWING'

The Mercedes-Benz 300 SL came about in the wake of the company's Le Mans and Carrera Panamericana victories in 1952. Directly derived from the 1952 racecar, now with increased power through a direct fuel injection which was a first on a production car the 300 SL was twice as fast as a production sedan. When presented at the 1954 New York Autoshow it looked like a starship from the future. While the official name was 300 SL Coupe the whole world nicknamed it 'Gullwing' as the open doors looked like the 300 SL could fly. US importer Max Hoffmann who is held responsible for the production of the W198 series 300 SLs wanted an open version of the 300 SL car from the very beginning. After producing 1,400 versions from autumn 1954 to 1957 the Coupe was succeeded by the two seater Roadster which is a refined version with tuned up engine and suspension. The 1,858 Roadsters were optional with a hardtop and were produced until February 1963. In 1999 Journalists from all over the world voted for the 300 SLs to become sportscar and cabriolet of the century. 55 RXY has been fastidiously maintained for many years by the same owner who still enjoys the many classic car tours throughout Europe and beyond.

