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# Classic cars galore travel to Le Mans via Brittany Ferries

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Hundreds of beautiful and valuable classic cars were heading to France with Brittany Ferries last weekend. They belong to Brits and other nationals attending the biennial Le Mans Classic festival in Pays de la Loire.



Around 430 rare and valuable cars made the voyage from Portsmouth to ports of Caen and St Malo. Their estimated value is £25.8 million, making the garages of Brittany Ferries' vessels among the most valuable in Europe - if only for a few hours.

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The collection of beautiful metal included a growling Corvette Stingray C8 (one of only 36 in the UK), Dodge Demon and lovingly restored vintage Porsches and Jaguar E-Types. There was also plenty of room on board for the humble Hillman Imp, taking the Friday morning crossing from Portsmouth to Caen.

This is the first post-pandemic Le Mans Classic. Owners were anxious to get beloved cars



back on the road and back to petrol-heads' circuit of choice.

Paul Jorgensen from Southampton, for example, was taking a 1965 Mk 1 Ford Lotus A frame. Previous travel plans had been thwarted by Covid, but he took advantage to get two cars across the channel this year, with the help of some friends,

"I even bought us special T-shirts two years ago and we've just been desperate to get them on and finally get to Le Mans," he said.

Paul Courtenay had travelled much further to get to Portsmouth for the departure to France. His journey began in Norway. He then picked up his car, a 1977 Lancia Beta Verde known affectionately as "Minty Monty", in Wiltshire.

Like so many other drivers Paul was keen to show off the care and attention that had gone into the Lancia's maintenance. "It was once on Top Gear," he said, with a wry smile.

An eye-catching yellow Porsche carried drivers nick-named "Goose" and "Maverick", from Preston in Lancashire. These Top Gun wannabes were full of anticipation and were particularly impressed by the white Porsche Speedster that pulled up alongside. "That's what Kelly McGillis drove in the film", Goose pointed out, with mild disappointment that the film star wasn't in the driver's seat.

Whilst boarding, the ships' garages echoed to the throaty notes of cars like Ford GT40s and an Italian Tenor in the form of a Lamborghini Murcielago. With their beloved cars safely parked owners were guided up to cabins, restaurants and bars to relax before disembarking in France.

[Le Mans Classic takes place every other year. This year's event ran from 30 June to 3 July 2022.](#)



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