

Santo's Italian Car Service

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Greetings:

I am writing about the 1969 Alfa Romeo GTV that is currently being offered for sale.

I know this GTV quite well as I have continuously dealt with it from the time it was purchased by a customer and friend of mine approximately 14 years ago. At that time, the then owner had two Alfa GTVs for sale - a 1974 and the 1969 which is the subject of this letter. The seller wanted to sell both cars as a package and I ultimately bought the 1974 and my friend, who is an avid Alfa enthusiast and collector, bought the 1969 GTV. Both cars were incredibly original down to the paint and interiors. They were California cars (the 1969 GTV still bears its original black California plates), regularly driven and well maintained over the years. Up to the point we bought them, neither had undergone any kind of restoration work.

Not long after he acquired the car, my friend decided to have a nut-and-bolt restoration done on this car. At the outset, I removed the engine and gearbox and the car was sent to Custom Classics in Lancaster, California for a complete restoration. There the car was taken down to a bare shell and completely redone including paint, interior and trim. All of the suspension and the differential were sent to me to be rebuilt.

My role in the restoration was to rebuild and restore all of the mechanical components. During that process, not only were all of the mechanicals completely rebuilt, they were cosmetically restored as well. The engine, gearbox case and differential center housing were all sent out for bead blasting. All of the suspension, the driveshaft, axle tubes, and miscellaneous parts were sent out for powder coating. The hardware went to a local plater to be zinc-plated as well. Once all of the mechanicals and the body and interior were restored, we assembled the car.

The mechanical restoration included:

- Engine: Completely rebuilt. New pistons/liners, rebuilt oil pump, machined crankshaft, new clutch, complete valve job with new valves and guides, rebuilt Spica injection pump by Wes Ingram, new water pump and timing chain.
- Gearbox: Completely rebuilt. New Goethe synchros and OEM sliders, all new seals, rear mount.
- Differential: inspected all carrier and pinion bearings, replaced axle bearings and seals.
- Suspension: Completely rebuilt with all new bushings, tie rods, ball joints, castor bushings, adjustable control arms, Koni shocks.

In addition to the above, we also went through the fuel system, steering box, brake and clutch system, replaced the exhaust, did all the electrical work and some finishing details.

This turned out to be a lengthy restoration done to the highest standards. The result is a wonderful example of Italian engineering that drives as well as it looks.

In 2018, this Alfa was acquired by its current owner who has a significant classic car collection. Under his ownership the car continued to be meticulously cared-for and maintained. It continued to be a California car that was always garaged and driven regularly but not extensively. The car was regularly serviced and all work on the car was done here in our shop.

Best Regards,
Anthony Rimicci
Santo's Italian Car Service