



23 MGs, 184 Cylinders, a Swiss band and a Toyota Yaris

The Swiss MG V8 group recently enjoyed its 10th Anniversary Tour of the Germany's Black Forest and Switzerland. The event had been organised with absolute perfection by Swiss MG V8 supremoes Victor and Evelyne Rodrigues.



Twenty Two MG V8s converged on the small tourist town of Titissee-Neustadt in Germany's Black Forest. Some participants only had to drive a relatively short distance from their Swiss homes but there were also V8s from France, Germany and UK.

Seven V8s made it from all parts of the UK. A word of sympathy however for Mark and Mary Randle who's BGT V8 refused to go before leaving England and had to resort to their family Toyota Yaris.



On arrival, all participants it transpired had encountered a lot of one particular driving hazard on their journeys...RAIN! and off until the last got on with meeting



It bucketed it down on the way and pretty much on day of the tour. Undeterred, we all parked up and new MG Friends and re-uniting with old ones.

Welcome Drink



followed by Dinner

Next day we left our V8s where they had landed and boarded a bus for a tour of the area.

Although this was no ordinary bus. It was a 1949 V8 Berna. This brute is one of only in existence and the only one remaining in the road. Our tour



I guess, Victor took us to the

Rothaus Brewery and for the more cultured, the Abbey Church at St Blasien. At the Brewery we were served what had been billed as a "light lunch" of Meat Loaf, although my piece alone was bigger than the late departed rocker himself.



St. Blasien



After a further night's festivities (aka more food), we got ready for day three, a drive in our MGs to Furtwangen to see the German Clock Museum (it's a lot more interesting than itsounds) and to the source of the Danube river. However, this is when some of us made a discovery: If you leave an RV8 parked nose to the wind for two days in pouring rain, the front footwells become paddling pools! After baling out and leaving the carpet mats behind we all set of on our tour and the inevitable "Light Lunch", which was not in any way light.



Source of the Donau River



The "Light Lunch" in Rest. Kolmenhof

Day four and we headed for Switzerland. Even on this journey, V&E had organised a stopover. A trip round the Emil Frey classic car museum and its collection of classic cars over four floors, and of course "Light Lunch"

Emil Frey Classics Museum in Safenwil

Highlights were the collection of original Bond cars and if you wanted to be shaken and definitely stirred, the Aston Marten DB5 on sale for a mere €250,000.



Our Swiss base at Nyon-Prangins on the shores of Lake Genève, proved to be an excellent base for climax of the tour.



Just along the shore is the village of Morges the venue for the annual Swiss Classic British Car Meeting in Morges. Drivers of nearly 2000 Classic cars of all British Marques just tip up and share their passion with anyone who wants to chat. And it actually stopped raining, well for an hour at least. We also had a day off from the "light lunch" but it was noted that some members had stocked up from the breakfast buffet before setting off



That night we celebrated until late with new MG friends and sang along to a traditional Swiss folk band before saying our good byes.



Gala Dinner





The Swiss folk Band



Closing, Evelyne was presented for her great support with a bouquet of flowers and the keys for a new MG/TF135, SE 2005 Royal Blue - Swiss Special Edition



On the final morning, 23 MG V8s and a Toyota Yaris set off in their different directions home. The sun had come out and we were heading south. Even, before we had left Switzerland, the top was down on the RV8, the carpets were drying out and were contemplating going on a diet. Happy Days.



Text: Nick Temple-Heald

Photos: V. & E. and Eric Pfändler

