

THERESE MARIA ROTSCHNE

OWNER OF THE MANRO MUSEUM
IN SALZBURG

Text: Helen Richardson | Photos: Therese Maria Rotschne

The Manro Museum is located close to the Salzburg Ring, between Salzburg and the lake, where a lot of people drive their classic cars. Why?

'You can literally go anywhere from here and you will find beautiful scenery and a perfect and safe place to stop.'

A life-scale Red Bull Alpha Jet "guards the entrance." What's the story?

'Sigi Angerer, the former chief pilot of the Flying Bulls sold us his Ferrari 512 BBi. This was the start of a lasting friendship. Sigi's initiative led to the static display of the Hangar 7 Alpha Jet as Hangar 7 is the home of the Flying Bulls collection and an airplane museum.'

Why do you think people like to look at classic cars?

'I often hear sentences like, "Do you remember when..." and a lot of personal and touching stories. Classic cars connect people through every age group and social status.'

Many cars now seem quite similar but vintage cars have their own face and character. Which 3 cars have the biggest "wow" factor?

'Everyone says our Alfa Romeo 2000 Touring Spider looks perfect. Our Jaguar XK150 SDHC (they only built 104 cars of this exact model) and on top she has a very special blue - "cotswood blue."

Our Maserati Khamsin is a real stunner. Our visitors are fascinated by the sharp Bertone design and the extraordinary colour gold on top. Of course, I

feel sorry for the other ones I haven't mentioned!

How does music help capture different eras in your museum?

'We wanted our visitors to be taken back in time. You can choose your favourite song from one of our jukeboxes.

On our stage we have lifesize versions of The Beatles with their instruments, Jimi Hendrix with his legendary strato-caster and Stevie Wonder on a Hammond organ.'

You show a lot of Italian and British sports cars from the 50s-70s and also some prewar and newer models. Which are your current favourites?

'Our Ferrari 512 BBi has just come back from a big service and she is driving better than ever! When the weather was awesome, I took our Ford Mustang Convertible out and she really puts a smile on every face.'

The American Corvette C2 is a real classic. Everyone must love her?

'Her shape is unique and beautiful. She is a timeless classic and she sounds like a motor boat.'

You have a really rare BMW 502 'Bauer' Convertible. What's her secret?

'They only built about 34 cars of this exact model. She looks really elegant but if you turn on the V8 machine and drive her, she is powerful and fun to drive.'





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Many classic cars are sold privately at auction. Where have most of your cars come from?

'Most of our cars we have known about for a long time. My father knew about our Ferrari 365 GT 2+2 "Queen Mary" for about 20 years before we bought her 10 years ago. It's nice if you know the person, see the car and finally buy it.'

Is there any particular car you still want or a place you still dream of going?

'An absolute dream car I have never driven is the Bizzarini Strada GT 5300. Mille Miglia and Pebble Beach are on my list for classic car events.'

Having met Bernie Ecclestone and Mika Häkkinen, which motor legend (past or present), would you like to meet/have met?

'That's really difficult but it would probably be Enzo Ferrari and experience "The Mythos Ferrari." I like his very strong and focussed character. Uninfluenceable, in a good way.'



You like to drive the cars in the beautiful scenery near the museum...

'It's awesome and with barely no traffic, so you can slow down and enjoy the ride.'

Both your grandparents were Fiat dealers. Did any of you ever get to meet the late, great Gianni Agnelli? What was he like?

'My father, Manfred, met him once at the Fiat Palace in Vienna but he was still very young. Mr Agnelli always had all eyes on

him when he entered a room. Meeting him was electrifying for my father.'

You took your Maserati Khamzin to Goodwood, 3 years ago and go to lots of rallies also. You have been to Concorso d' eleganza Villa d'este at Lake Como, the Automobile Council Tokyo in Japan and the Ascari Race Track. Any fun memories?

'Lots! At the Ennstal Classic in Austria I was having a lunch break after a long

ride in our Ferrari 365 GT 2+2 "Queen Mary." I sat with an elderly couple chatting about cars and the man told me he is still highly involved in car racing. He said he was Peter Sauber. I immediately recognised him and we laughed.'

You make sure your cars are frequently driven. How far do you push them? 'Not to the limit. It's mainly about feeling the car and enjoying the road.'