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UK's rarest cars featured at The Classic at Silverstone this summer

Our much-loved feature on the forgotten cars of yesteryear is the focus of a special celebration at this major event featuring 50 rarities

By Paul Hudson , MOTORING EDITOR

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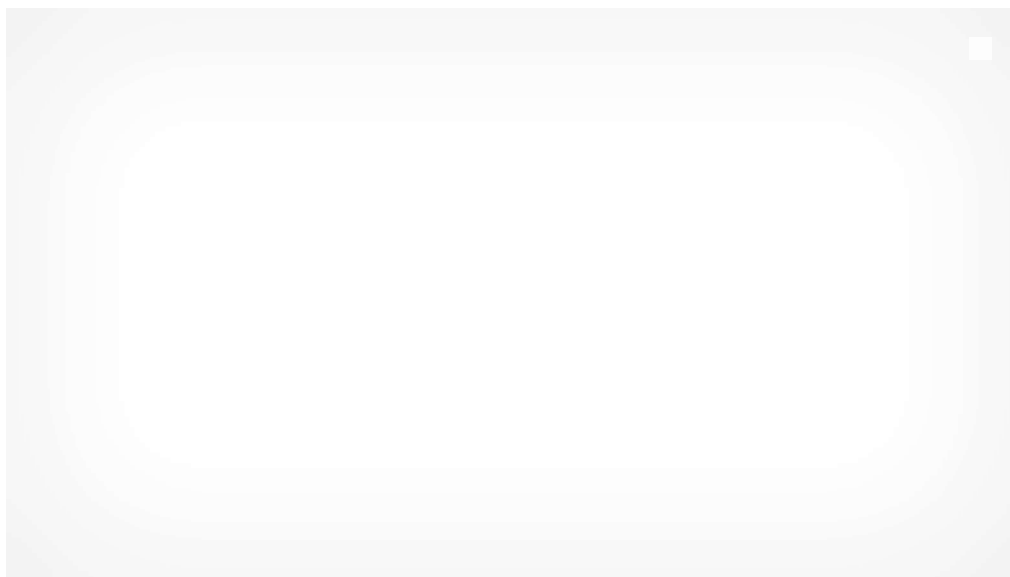
I know from reader feedback that many of you love our weekly feature on the [UK's rarest cars](#), focussing on everyday cars (along with a few oddities) that were common sights in the 1970s, 80s and 90s but which are now astonishingly rare. Some of the cars we've featured are unique, with no other survivors on British roads. So I am delighted to

announce that [The Classic at Silverstone](#), billed as the world's biggest historic motor racing festival, will feature 50 or so cars from our series at this summer's event.

Taking place at the home of the British Grand Prix from 30 July-1 August, The Classic is a massive celebration of motoring nostalgia featuring huge numbers of automotive legends from both road and track.

During the three-day weekend event, Silverstone's paddocks are packed with historic racing cars, while the numerous infield car displays showcase thousands of treasured classic road cars from yesteryear, many celebrating important model and marque milestones with record-breaking parades on the famous Grand Prix circuit.

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For this summer's 30th birthday party edition, The Classic will also have a special display starring 50 of the UK's most seldom-spotted cars. But we have eschewed one-off prototypes or multi-million pound hypercars in favour of "real world" family cars that are hardly ever seen on our roads today.

This base-spec Austin Mini Metro dates from the first year of production and was registered in 1981

Expect to see cars such as the [Austin Mini Metro](#), [Fiat 128](#), [Ford Cortina](#), [Morris Marina](#), [Hillman Hunter](#) and the [Renault 4](#). Larger family cars include the [Rover P6](#) and [SD1](#), along with the [Ford Consul](#) and [Vauxhall Senator](#). And my personal favourite, the [lovely Alfasud Ti](#).

The display will also feature a selection of long-disappeared Japanese cars of the type that UK buyers increasingly turned to in disappointment at the poor quality of home-grown products.

The *UK's Rarest Cars* series started back in 2018 when I remarked to contributor Andrew Roberts on the low survival rate of many Japanese cars of the 1970s and 1980s. The result was a feature on the [aforementioned Mazda 929 Estate](#). The concept was so well received that Roberts has subsequently unearthed close to 70 other rarities – with many more to add to the list.

Our series has included formerly ubiquitous vehicles such as this Bedford HA van. British Rail and British Telecom bought many thousands of them

I had absolutely no idea how popular this regular series of articles would become. I am grateful to the organisers of The Classic that the car-loving British public will now be able to see them in the metal.

All the cars showcased in 'The UK's Rarest Cars presented by The Telegraph' collection will have their own tales told on individual display boards. Visitors with their own recollections will also be able to share their personal memories with the current owners of these often maligned and neglected motoring stalwarts.

An assortment of these rarities will be exhibited on all three days in a dedicated area at Silverstone with the biggest gathering expected on Saturday, when all those owners attending will take part in a commemorative track parade.

The infield display areas at The Classic feature many thousands of cars. Expect to see plenty of exotics alongside 'our' mundane motors

There will also be an online poll where visitors can vote for their favourite among these everyday heroes.

[All tickets for The Classic must be purchased in advance and a wide selection is available](#), including hospitality and camping options. Adult general admission starts from £47 with the price of a three-day weekend ticket just £125. Display packages for car club members are also available.

Free admission is offered to accompanied children aged 10 and under, while day tickets for 11- to 15-year-olds are priced from only £6.

As ever, all tickets will give access to both racing paddocks, trackside grandstand seating, live music concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings and much of the fabulous family entertainment on offer including funfair rides, driving experiences and stunt shows.

Ticket-buyers can also book with confidence with tickets carrying a Covid booking guarantee; if a change in current Government guidelines prevents spectators attending, all ticket-buyers will have the option to either transfer their ticket to the following year or receive a full refund.

We really can't say fairer than that! I look forward to seeing you there.



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