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CABRIOLET

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FOR THE EVOLVED MAN

OVERVIEW E3 2018

Lowdown on the world's biggest gaming expo

SANDIP SOPARRKAR

"Nobody is my inspiration. I set my own benchmarks and then surpass them"

VOL. 2 | ISSUE 2 | JULY 2018 | ₹150

JUST URBANE | VOL. 2 | ISSUE 2 | JULY 2018

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RNI NO. 1/MAH/ENG/2017/75201

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an hour. We later learnt that the delay was caused because of an abandoned suitcase lying around and the police had to make sure that it wasn't a bomb. This break gave us the chance to interact with enthusiasts interested in the Cobra. They were inquisitive about its originality. Yes, the car is original, not a replica. And yes, this really makes a difference: of about 6,50,000 Euros! The Cobra has a Ford V8 engine with about 350 horsepower, which is not bad at a weight of only 950kg.

Thanks to our super accurate stopwatch, we managed to drive every lap in more or less the same time. The results showed one round which we finished 24th (out of about 150), just using this funny sandglass. You might've guessed by now that we didn't really give much thought on these regularity tests - we take part just because of how fun it is to drive an old car together with like-minded people. I remember a shop window with a decoration sign saying, "Time does not exist. Only watches." After passing this sign thrice I was convinced that this sign was really there. How true and congenial in this situation!

The next day began with the hillclimb. At one point in history, the Gaisbergrennen was a real race for cars and motorcycles, but those days are now long gone. For us, it was just a regularity drive. We could enjoy the hillclimb thrice and thankfully for us, the rain had stopped. We had dry roads and sunny skies again. After lunch, we started a 150km trip with several checkpoints and special stages, but after 2km we heard some noise from the front wheels. A closer inspection of the car showed us that the left wheel bearing was damaged. We decided to quit because we didn't want to risk such a valuable car just for a fun event. After 30 minutes, the organizers sent out a trailer which picked the car up. And in the end, I had to call my wife to pick us up.

It was an absolutely fantastic experience, and one that wouldn't be leaving my memory any time soon. In fact, I often find myself staring at my phone hoping for another message to flash on the screen! 📱

Clockwise from top left: Sandglass precision; our AC Cobra on the trailer with broken front wheel bearing; one of several Abarth race cars; mascot of an Austro Daimler overlooking the street while the Salzburg Fort overlooks the city in the background; traffic jam before the hillclimb; impressive, naturally ventilated intakes and outlets of a V8