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A green take on the Targa Florio and the best of Italian telly

Author: Martin Buckley Published: 3 October 15:30



I'm writing this on my Blackberry from a pizzeria in Palermo, having just done the Eco Targa Florio (29 September–2 October).

Full report to follow, either in a column or a feature because I need editor Clements to pay

Full report to follow, either in a column or a feature because I need editor Clements to pay my plane ticket, but I thought I'd share a few observations, nonetheless.

This is not the hairy, horsepower-fuelled Targa Florio as we fondly remember it, to be honest, but something more akin to a booze-cruise variant of the Wacky Races. Or possibly the Gumball Rally, with some nice hotels and great food thrown in.

The 'eco' bit refers to the five electric cars that nobody ever saw during the four days, other than in the car park at the beginning, probably some government grant money involved here, I guess.

The second part of the event comprised more modern Ferraris than I would normally ever care to see in one place, driven by a thoroughly international selection of Dick Dastardly's: a lot of contrived exhaust notes, macho revving up etc – in other words a massive Ferrari 'who's got the biggest [smallest?] appendage' competition.



Much better were the cars in the classic contingent, which included a Pinin Farina-bodied Bristol 400, a Lancia Flavia and a Cisitalia – along with a Zagato-bodied Fiat 1100 and an Austin-Healey Frogeye Sprite, which I was in.



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