



PETER AUTO - 103, rue Lamarck - 75018 Paris - France  
Tel +33 (0)1 42 59 73 40 - Fax +33 (0)1 42 59 48 28 - www.tourauto.com

Thursday, April 21 2009 – 1st stage – Paris → Beaune

## STARTING OFF FOR A TOUR IN BURGUNDY

6 am, Paris awakes ... to the sound of V12s leaving the Place de la Concorde. Beautiful take-off runway for the 225 cars of the Tour Auto Optic 2000, who left early this morning for Montlhéry steering clear of traffic jams. On the highly evocative circuit, the competitors met for a first special stage ... not on the famous ring edified in 1923 for speed records, but on the road track which measures over 6 kilometres. Already some sparring and some excessive optimism ... a sporting foretaste of the coming week with classifications more open than ever.

Taking the Sun Motorway, the competitors drove on towards Burgundy for the rest of the stage. A second road special near Avallon, followed by lunch in the idyllic settings of the Château de Montjalin which houses a famous collection of cars having belonged to Heads of State.

This Tuesday was open day on the Dijon Prenois circuit for the passage of the Tour Auto Optic 2000... many car enthusiasts were present to admire the cars on the track, the third grid being the first to start.

From the Competition side, last year's victorious AC Cobra was ready for the return of the Ford GT40s, firmly determined to commemorate the 40th anniversary of their first participation in the *Tour de France Automobile*... After this first day of racing, the classification confirmed the ambition of the GT40s with a first place for Shaun Lynn in front of the title holder Ludovic Caron. In the midst of the "Big Blocks", Miloe's Porsche 904 GTS and Jean-Pierre Lajournade's Lotus Elan fitted in between at third and fifth position.

### Relations presse Peter Auto

Marine Allainguillaume – mallainguillaume@peter.fr

Bertrand Waldbillig – bwaldbillig@peter.fr

### Relations extérieures Optic 2000

Béatrice Genet – beatrice.genet@audiopic.fr

