



**Tuesday April 20 – DAY 1 – Paris → Vichy**

### **VENI, VIDI, VICHY!**

Escorted by the Garde Republicaine, the competitors taking part to the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Tour Auto Optic 2000 left the Jardin des Tuileries at the day break to join Fontainebleau, place of the official start of the rally. As in 2008, the whole grid took benefit from a privileged welcome in the main courtyard, to the spectators' great delight. These ones were really numerous to encourage the competitors and admire the cars.

The History then immediately gave up its place to the competition, with a first special stage on a very sinuous and narrow closed road. A very technical stage which didn't scared Hugo Payen on his powerful Jaguar Type E. The French young man scored the best time of the VHC category. The 2009 winner, Shaun Lynn on his Ford GT40, lied in ambush.

At Magny Cours, first circuit of the 2010 Tour, the Competition grids, which were the first to take the start, ensured the show with some very strong battles on the track. Hugo Payen, one of the favourite competitors of the rally unfortunately had to abandon, made way for Shaun Lynn to lead the classification at the end of the day. But challengers are numerous and the final results are certainly not already predictable!

On Wednesday morning, the first start from Vichy will be given at 7.00 am. Direction: the Charade's sinuous track. All the competitors will come back on this circuit with happiness, especially Jean Ragnotti and Alain Serpaggi, who are always ready to offer a big show to the spectators, at the wheel of their Alpine A110.

Join us at Lyon for the second -and original- stop of the Tour Auto Optic 2000.

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#### **Contacts presse**

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