



PRESS RELEASE

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THE TOUR IS GOING WESTWARD!

TOUR AUTO OPTIC 2000 - 20TH EDITION, FROM 11 TO 16 APRIL 2011, FROM PARIS TO BIARRITZ

When the Tour Auto is born in 1992, it was a gamble on the future by reviving the best memories of the past. The past of one of the greatest automobile events: the *Tour de France Automobile*, stopped in its contemporary form six years beforehand. Maintaining the spirit of competition while selecting the most beautiful cars of the '50s, '60s and '70s, was the recipe of the Tour and its success does not need to be proved as, 20 editions later, the Tour Auto Optic 2000, whose foundations have remained the same, is the most sought after classic car rally.

And of course, as each edition brings its novelties, here are those awaited for 2011. To be noted that for the third year, Optic 2000 and its network of 1160 opticians associate their name with the Tour Auto and will use the event to communicate on the control of the driver's eyesight.

Heading for the Atlantic!

Since 1992, the Tour Auto manages a "tour... de force" by never taking the same route twice. A challenge helped by the unlimited secondary roads and splendid sceneries that France has to offer. In 2011, for its 20th edition, the Tour will return towards the South West of France, in the direction of the Atlantic coast with Biarritz as final destination. As always, the stopovers will be dotted with special stages on both closed roads and circuits. The latter, as well as the stopover towns of the 2011 edition, can already be announced.

On Monday 11 April 2011, the Tour Auto Optic 2000 will make its headquarters in the **Jardins des Tuileries** for the day of Checks and Scrutineering, open to the public. Very early on Tuesday 12, the whole grid will drive towards the **Linas-Monthéry** track for the official start of the race. The first stage will take the competitors to **Poitiers**, via the **Le Mans Bugatti circuit**. On the day after, they will set out for the **Vigeant circuit**, before a stopover in Corrèze at **Objat**, close to Brive la Gaillarde. No circuit for the third stage which will finish at **Bordeaux**. The competitors will then have an appointment on the **Nogaro circuit**, before getting to **Pau**. On the last morning, the competitors will only have a few kilometres to cover to get to the **Pau Amos circuit**, before the last liaison in the direction of **Biarritz**, prestigious terminus of the 2011 edition.

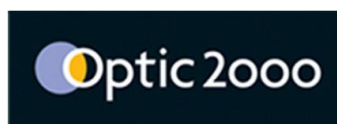
Zagato, an Italian master on the roads of France

The next Tour Auto Optic 2000 will pay tribute to the Tailor of the "beauty queens"... of the track. The man who dressed the greatest mechanical athletes called Alfa Romeo, Aston Martin, Abarth, Maserati...in fine aluminium robes.

Along with Pininfarina, Touring or Bertone, Zagato is one of the greatest names in Italian coach building. Established by Ugo Zagato in 1919, the *Carrozzeria* of the same name will reach its peak under the management of his two sons, Gianni and Elio. The latter, deceased in September 2009, had an enviable prize-list in competition, including a victory in the Targa Florio. His experience as a racing driver certainly contributed to Zagato's capacity to draw silhouettes dedicated to performance, with few aesthetic devices, the form dictating the function for these visionaries who always made weight reduction and aerodynamic efficiency their priority.

Built for the track, the cars signed Zagato scoured the great international competitions of the '50s and '60s, including the *Tour de France Automobile*. In 2011, the Tour Auto Optic 2000 will pay tribute to the cars branded with a "Z", of all periods* and whatever their prize list in the original race. The occasion to gather the most titled – Alfa Romeo SZ; and the rarest – Maserati A6 G 2000 Zagato, Aston Martin DB4 GT Zagato, for the greatest pleasure of connoisseurs and all those who are not indifferent to Transalpine sensuality.

*in the eligibility period of the Tour Auto Optic 2000, between 1951 and 1973.





----- THE TOUR AUTO OPTIC 2000 IN A NUTSHELL -----

Dates and itinerary.....	Checks & Scrutineering	Paris – Jardins des Tuileries.....	11 April
	Start	Montlhéry	12 April
	1 st Stage.....	Poitiers.....	12 April
	2 nd Stage.....	Objat	13 April
	3 rd Stage	Bordeaux	14 April
	4 th Stage	Pau	15 April
	Finish	Biarritz.....	16 April

Cars accepted220 of which the model participated in the *Tour de France Auto* between 1951 and 1973

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