



Mercedes Benz 300 SL Coupe 24h Le Mans 1956

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The Mercedes Benz 300 SL Coupe, "Gullwing", remains today, more than fifty years later, the vehicle the brand of the star.

Top Slot, under their reference TOP-7113, introduces the Mercedes Benz 300 SL Coupe, chassis number 405500223, the lonely Mercedes to take part in the 24 Hours of Le Mans held in 1956 with Prince Paul Metternich and von Wittigo von Einsiedel at the wheel of the silver arrow number seven.

After the 1955 terrible tragedy, Mercedes Benz decided, in mourning, not to participate as a racing Team on any other motorsport event.

That way they abandoned their years of dominance, their Formula One victories, the ones at La Sarthe and those at the main competitions. Because of its reliability and performance the Mercedes Benz cars were chosen by many private teams, and drivers, including Prince Metternich, who maintained their confidence in the Mercedes "standard" vehicles. Their favorite was the 300 SL.

Metternich introduced his own Mercedes 300SL at Le Mans as Sport 3.0 (2,001 to 3,000 cc); a category he was aspiring to win at the wheel of his inline six, longitudinally arranged, 2.996cc, 215hp at 4,600rpm, aluminum drum brakes with ATE Brake, but having weight as a handicap. Their main weapon, especially for a 24 hour race, was the reliability of its Bosch PES 6 KL injection, eliminating the usual problems with carburetors.

Nevertheless, and to the 300SL, now reproduced by Top Slot, was one of the favorites to become the class winner, but after only eight-hour racing, 58 laps of the remodeled design of Le Mans, the engine surrendered unexpectedly to the hardness of the race.

