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Delivery-mileage Ferrari Testarossa heads to auction

JULY 31, 2014



This 1989 example shows just 95 miles on the odometer and still has plastic on the seats.
PHOTO BY RM AUCTIONS

TIME CAPSULE WITH 95 CLAIMED MILES PARTIES LIKE IT'S 1989

The launch of the [Ferrari Testarossa](#) was a major happening in 1984, with some customers paying a \$100,000 premium for an early car just due to the rush. The styling was fresh and modern, and its side strakes could be said to be the automotive design cue of the decade. Demand for the Testarossa remained high well into the late 1980s, subsiding a bit only when the economic recession of the late 1980s started taking its toll. But for [Ferrari](#) the Testarossa was the blockbuster car of the decade, and its reliability and level of comfort were truly revolutionary for the 1980s. It was one of the best everyday supercars of the period, as Crockett and Tubbs will attest.

In a couple weeks, RM Auctions will be offering a delivery mileage Testarossa from 1989, an example with just 95 claimed original miles on the clock. Testarossas ate up miles easily, so it's a bit of a rarity to see a low-mileage example. And it's even more unusual to encounter a preserved delivery-mileage car. So how did this example get pickled away?

According to RM Auctions, this particular example was sold new by Kessler Motorcars in New York City to David Abbott, a resident of New York. RM says that this example has remained in the possession of its first owner until passing into the hands of the consigning vendor here. Finished in Rosso Corsa over tan leather, it comes with all the accompanying delivery items including the window sticker, books, tools, car cover, as well as the paperwork and envelope from the selling dealer. And the matching five-piece luggage set that doesn't even look like it could all fit into the car, which will be offered with its original cardboard packaging. The original plastic seat covers with which the Testarossa was shipped from Maranello are also said to be with the car, though RM has removed them in some photos just for the purposes of photography.

So how much does RM expect the car to bring?



The plastic is still on the seats and the window sticker comes with the car.
PHOTO BY RM AUCTIONS



CAR LIFE

This Ferrari 250 GTO may become the most expensive car in the world

The Ferrari 250 GTO, perhaps the bluest of blue-chip collector cars, has never exactly been underappreciated. Only 33 were been produced in this desirable body style (a handful of variants, including ...

RM has estimated this example to sell between \$200,000 and \$275,000.

If you think that the selling price for a delivery condition Testarossa is in the eye of the beholder since this will be a car that the winning bidder is unlikely to put more than a few miles on, there is actually some precedent for stashed-away examples of this model. At their Monterey sale in 2012, RM offered a [129-mile 1989 Testarossa](#) finished in the same Rosso Corsa over tan leather and from the same original dealer; Kessler Motorcars. *That* example ended up bringing \$264,000. It was also a single-owner car (though the car being offered this year is technically a two-owner example, even though it may not be the case that the consigning second owner actually put any miles on it). The Testarossa sold in 2012, chassis no. ZFFSG17A5K0080179, was believed to be the lowest-mileage example of the Testarossa in existence. But RM makes no claims about the possible record-holder status of the car being offered here, chassis no. ZFFSG17A7K0082581.

Was someone picking up Testarossas when the market for supercars disappeared almost overnight? Ferrari dealers had a hit on their hands right up to Black Monday -- October 19, 1987 -- when stock markets around the world crashed. The demand for supercars crashed along with them, with sales cut by a significant number. Another mini-crash followed in October of 1989, by which time Testarossas were no longer fresh in terms of styling and could be had with a significant discount off the list price. If there was ever a time to pick up Testarossas to be sold a quarter of a century later, it was 1989. It's hard to imagine the example above or its 129-mile sibling as having been bought for purposes other than long-term investment given what year it was outside at the time.



The original luggage set comes with the car, including the cardboard box it came with.
PHOTO BY RM AUCTIONS



CAR LIFE

Shelby Mustang GT500 time capsule heads to auction

A 1969 Shelby Mustang that has been stored in a garage for 40 years will be sold at an estate auction. It was discovered along with a few other vehicles and assorted large garden machinery that ...

Even though the values of other Testarossas may not be terribly relevant in the context of discussing this example, it may be worth pointing out that just a year ago the best examples were selling in the low \$60,000 range. That was the case just until a couple months ago when several examples, concours and otherwise, embarked on a serious hike north selling in the high \$80,000 range. Driver examples similarly went from the low \$50,000s to the high \$60,000s. Delivery mileage examples (however many there are out there) are in a category of their own, though with the resurgence of interest in a model that was derided as "so '80s it hurts" not that long ago, we might see an interesting result achieved here.

[Click here](#) to see the full list of lots from RM's upcoming Monterey auction.



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