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# AUTOWEEK

## Ferrari Testarossa with 184 miles heads to auction

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Testarossas with delivery miles are coming out of hibernation as values continue to rise for the ultimate '80s status symbol.  
PHOTO BY RM SOTHEBY'S

### PICKLED FERRARIS RIDE THE WAVE OF RISING VALUES

The days of [Ferrari Testarossas](#) selling for the price of a modestly optioned new [Chevrolet Tahoe](#) are over -- that much is clear. But just how high are the values of low-mileage examples of this model, once treated as a used sports car, ready to go?

RM Sothebys' upcoming "[Driven by Disruption](#)" sale in New York City will try to answer that question about two weeks from now, when a 1991 Testarossa with 296 kilometers (184 miles) rolls across the block.

First things first: Testarossas with delivery mileage that have been pickled since new are a regular auction commodity. Every year, a handful of examples with odometer readings in the low three digits are rolled out of their hiding places, and after a recommissioning bill in the low-five figures, are taken to auction. Consequently, there is now a fairly good record of as-new Testarossa values as a result of a cars being brought out of hibernation in response to a surge in appreciation. Those who have stashed them away are assuming that their time has come, and auction values for models in the best condition speak for themselves -- the only people kicking themselves right now are those who cashed in too early, two years ago. (Whether anyone really cashed in is be debatable, given 25 years of storage costs and inflation.)



#### [AUCTIONS](#)

### **The Ferrari Testarossa from 'Miami Vice' can be yours -- it's headed to auction this August**

Dig out that light-gray Armani jacket and a pair of leather loafers (ed: two steps ahead of you, hombre) because that's what it'll take to view this next auction item properly. Crockett ...



This Testarossa was originally delivered to Canada, so the instruments are in kilometers.

PHOTO BY RM SOTHEBY'S

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The 1991 example offered by RM Sotheby's has a bit of an unusual history (which you may have guessed when you read that the odometer reading was expressed in kilometers). This is indeed a Canadian-market Testarossa, one stated to have been purchased by a lady inspired after seeing the model in the TV series "Miami Vice." The car's first and sole owner ordered the Nero over Nero coupe from Gentry Lane Ferrari in Toronto, and then instead of drifting it on ice all day every day, as we would have done, had the car stored at Performance Cars in St. Catharines, Ontario.

RM Sotheby's indicates, with some understatement, that even though the lady owner had very much intended to drive the car, her free time was limited and she just never got around to it. As a result, the Testarossa spent its whole life in what were likely very nice (and expensive) storage conditions, first at Performance Cars and then at Ferrari of Ontario.

RM Sotheby's reports that the exterior and interior are in flawless condition, and more importantly that the car has been "appropriately maintained at regular intervals." Specifically, the timing belt was changed in December of 1999 and then once again in 2007, and the front brake calipers were rebuilt in October in 2014 in addition to a fluid change that took place that same month. The only items that appear to be missing are the original tools and books that came with the car, though we expect those can be sourced on The eBays with some effort.



#### AUCTIONS

### **Rare Chrysler Special Coupe by Ghia heads to auction**

Ghia-penned mid-century Chryslers do not come up for auction often, but when they do, they inevitably draw a crowd (as well as the usual laments about the passing of the last remnants of the ...



The Nero black interior is said to be in excellent condition.

PHOTO BY RM SOTHEBY'S

RM Sotheby's estimates this Testarossa to bring between \$400,000 and \$500,000 which, if realized, will set a record for a regular production Testarossa in the 21st century, in addition to setting a record for the sub-category of delivery-mileage Testarossas.

How rare is such a thing? In July of last year a Rosso Corsa 1989 Testarossa brought \$242,000 at RM Auctions' Monterey sale. Another example with 129 miles on the clock sold by RM back in 2012 (a bit further away in terms of valuation) brought \$264,000. More recently, a 171-mile example from 1990 brought \$250,000 at Bonhams' Scottsdale sale almost a year ago, with all of these pickled examples reliably bringing six-figure premiums over comparable examples with mileages in the four- and five-figure range.

Will this example bring more just because it's Canadian and not the usual Rosso Corsa over a tan interior? We'll have to wait and see, though it'll be the frenzy of Arizona in January that will indicate whether Testarossa values as a whole are showing signs of settling down. Get ready to see a stampede of these at auctions, in all conditions, in about a month.



**JAY RAMEY** - Jay Ramey is an Associate Editor with Autoweek, and has been with the magazine since 2013. Jay also likes to kayak and bike. [READ MORE »](#)

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