

España-Santiago 2007 Sportscar Challenge

17th – 21st September

Bulletin two

The first recce of the 2007 route has once again come up with some impressive roads. Testing sportscars on a challenging route through spectacular terrain is our passion. For us it's finding that testing route and schedule, for competitors it's often more than just testing the car. The España-Santiago 2007 will be a real challenge for sportscars.

There is news regarding the start. The Start of the España-Santiago 2007 will now be in Angoulême, 100 kms north of Bordeaux. Why? well for those in the know there is a street race in Angoulême each year which has been running since 1939. We were fortunate enough to stay in a hotel in the town owned by Monsieur Themines, where once a year his garage is full of Grand Prix Bugattis. As the Circuit des Remparts race day (Sunday 16th September) coincides with the eve of the start of our five day rally, the exciting prospect of being there grew. A meeting was arranged with race director Jean Michel Laujac. Discussing our rally to Santiago de Compostela, the change from a Bordeaux start to an Angoulême start met with all-round enthusiasm. Being driven around a lap of the circuit (where the route is identified by the temporary Armaco sockets in the tarmac) was enough to convince us of the jewel we had stumbled upon. www.circuit-des-remparts.com The sight of sportscars being driven at speed and sideways through the corners on the Sunday will be some aperitif.

Scrutineering for the España-Santiago will now be taking place in the race paddock on Sunday evening straight after the races have finished. With cars secure in the paddock overnight. The Rally headquarters will be at a hotel just a couple of minutes away through the narrow streets from the starting grid. Hotel information is included for entrants. In the first instance a room will be offered in this hotel, and when full, rooms will be offered at other hotels in the town. With the race day over and the partying and restaurants busy, your cars will begin to have their numbers attached and scrutineered ready for the 8am start Monday morning.

Back to the route. Driving south through Aquitaine and crossing the Atlantic Pyrenees was always going to involve some inspired driving and navigation. As usual the schedule won't be difficult, but there are enough awesome roads to test even the most experienced. Into Spain and with a hotel bar in Pamplona calling, you are thrown into some beautiful combinations of tight and sweeping tarmac bends just prior to stopping for the night. Next morning concentrating navigators will be relieved to see the out sign of Pamplona followed by some strenuous driver concentration on many kilometres of serious road rally tarmac towards the Sierra de la Demanda. What a find.

The entry list is looking good, and as usual the 2000cc class is boasting the most cars. If you are planning to take part please send in your reservation form so your name can be added to the entry list.

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