



50 years on the red carpet

So sensual, intriguing and elegant as to steal the scene from one of the most fascinating catwomen ever played by Anne Hathaway; no, we're not talking about an actor or an actress, but about the silver **Aventador LP 700-4** in which Bruce Wayne (played by Christian Bale) drives to Gotham City when he decides to come out of his self-imposed seclusion, after an absence of eight years, and return to play the role of Batman in "**The dark knight rises**". The car chosen by Wayne for his return could hardly have been anything other than a Lamborghini, because the Gotham City millionaire is one of the greatest collectors in film history of the Italian cars made by the House of the Bull. In "**Batman Begins**", the Batmobile co-starred with a **Murciélago**, and in 2008's "**Dark Knight**", with a **Murciélago LP 640**. Could it be a coincidence that the word Murciélago, as well as being the name of a famous, and famously fierce, fighting bull bred by Joaquin del Val de Navarra, also means "bat" in Spanish?

Lamborghini is a true star of the red carpet. For the world premiere of "**Mission Impossible III**" (2006), the leading actors in the film arrived in 10 Lamborghinis, including a yellow and red Gallardo. But then of course an orange version of the supercar built by the Sant'Agata Bolognese manufacturer appeared as a member of the cast in the film. Perhaps the decision to arrive in Lamborghinis was taken to cheer up the stunning Maggie Q, who in a scene in the film is asked by Tom Cruise to blow up the supercar. When he says "Blow the car", she presses the button with a pained expression and sighs "Such a nice car"...

Lamborghinis appear frequently in American films. They race and show off their power, breathtaking cornering and top performance, driven by superheroes, agents on secret missions and beautiful women. In "**Bedazzled**" (2000), Liz Hurley in the role of a sexy devil drives a black **Diablo**. The protagonist of the film, a slow-witted office worker played by Brendan Fraser, whose colleagues avoid him because he's so awkward and boring, sells his soul to her in exchange for seven wishes. Nineteen/Nine years



earlier, in “**The Cannonball Run**”, we find Jill Rivers (Tara Buckman) and Marcie Thatcher (Adrienne Barbeau) driving a black **Lamborghini Countach** and relying on their undisputed feminine charms to work their way into the favours of the policemen who stop them, and finally win the clandestine race. Or Sylva Koscina, the favourite actress of every Italian man in the 1960s, who in the opening episode of the film “**Vedo Nudo**” (1969) is seen driving a beautiful **Lamborghini Islero**, of which only 225 were produced in 1968 and 1969.

Cars have always had strong ties to the world of film, with some playing memorable roles and becoming cult objects. Like the Alfa Romeo Duetto that appears in “The Graduate”, the Aston Martin DB5 in “Goldfinger”, the yellow Volkswagen Karmann Ghia in “Starsky & Hutch” or the Porsche 917K driven by Steve McQueen in “Le Mans”. But a place of honour is reserved for the rare 1969 **Lamborghini Islero GTS** driven by Roger Moore in 1970 in the film “**The Man Who Haunted Himself**”, before he became James Bond on the big screen. In 2010 this Lambo was sold by RM Auctions for an estimated **135/106,400** thousand pounds sterling. It seems to have been one of five right hand drive “S” version cars, of which only 100 were made. Some enthusiasts say that the model is a hidden gem that was loved by Ferruccio Lamborghini himself and the one he chose for his everyday use. Moore added to the car’s value by signing the sunshade, the original owner’s handbook and a special number plate.

But what car would all directors like in the role of the ultimate sports car? Without the shadow of a doubt they would choose the **Miura**. Forty years ago, in “**L’Homme Orchestre**” (1970), the car we see speeding along the mountain roads is a **yellow Miura**. In “**Gangster Story**” with Joseph Cotton and Giulio Brogi, a thief steals a **Miura** after robbing a jeweller’s shop to escape to what was then Yugoslavia. Apparently, because of fog that day, the scenes on the Yugoslav border were in fact shot in Emilia Romagna with the help of a sign erected on a local state road. In 1968, in the film “Sissignore”, Gastone



Moschin plays the role of an “exuberant” lawyer who races along a coast road in a **Lamborghini Miura** against a blond woman in a

Ferrari 250 California GT. Neither of them are expert drivers and they cause an accident in which a coach crashes off a cliff after swerving to avoid them. A submissive Ugo Tognazzi is blamed for the accident. But despite the lawyer's recklessness, it should be remembered that driving these cars is by no means easy. And as is usual in all the most risky scenes in films, in these cases too a stand-in is par for the course. One of the protagonists of “**The Italian Job**” (1969), with Michael Caine, Raf Vallone and Rossano Brazzi, is a **Miura P 400**, although it wasn't Brazzi behind the wheel, but long-time Lamborghini employee Enzo Moruzzi: *“It was a story about the mafia and at the start of the film the Miura enters a tunnel, collides with a tractor, is seriously damaged and then crashes down a mountain slope. I remember that the team from the UK production company, who were always drinking tea, bought the body of an accident damaged car from the factory. So I drove the Miura into the tunnel in one piece, and then out the other end all smashed up. Fortunately the shoot went well, otherwise the production company would have had to buy a new body”*. In “**La Prima Notte di Quietè**”, a red Miura runs down the protagonist Daniele Dominici, a high school teacher played by Alain Delon. A Miura also makes an appearance in “**L’Invasione**” with Michel Piccoli, Mariangela Melato and Lisa Gastoni, which tells the story of a rich architect who invites a young student to stay at his house. But the student invites some friends who challenge him by mocking the symbols of his wealth and seduce his wife. In “**Il Commissario Pepe**” with Ugo Tognazzi, a red Miura is driven by Virgilio Scapin, an unassuming and reserved person known and appreciated by many as an astute advisor and the owner of the historic bookshop in Contra' Do' Rode, just a few steps from Piazza dei Signori in Vicenza. In his case a stand-in was absolutely essential as he didn't know even how to start a car engine!

In Italian productions, the endless American roads become smaller state and provincial roads, while the superheroes and secret agents become ordinary



lawyers, businessmen, professionals and the representatives of a typically Italian middle class. In these cases, the suspense aroused by American productions is replaced by Italian comedy. So we find a young Mariangela

Melato speeding through the streets of Rome in the Miura given to her as a gift by her lover. The shoot began near Piazza del Popolo and when it was over, passers by approached the car to ask for the actress' autograph. But when they saw that the person driving the car was Enzo Moruzzi, complete with blond wig and fur coat, their comments were rather different from what was expected. Or Angelo Infanti as Ferdinando Scarano "o' Barone" in "**Piedone Lo Sbirro**", who chooses a **Lamborghini Espada** to escape from Piedone (Bud Spencer). And then the memorable opening scene in "**Mr Miliardo**", in which a young Terence Hill zooms through the streets in a **Lamborghini Countach**, which we soon discover he is in fact only servicing for its owner. Or Renato Pozzetto in an episode of "**Per Vivere meglio divertitevi con noi**" (1978), who tries to sell a Lamborghini Silhouette to a businessman from Varese using the technique devised by Ubaldo Sgarzi, Lamborghini's first Sales Manager, and taking him on an unforgettable ride in the car, which is so difficult to drive for a normal human being. And he successfully completes the sale, receiving 35 million lira in exchange for the car. Charlie Babbitt (Tom Cruise) should have used this tactic in "**Rain Man**", in which he has to sell the four Countachs that appear in the film's opening scene to save his luxury car dealership from bankruptcy.

Then of course there are the big screen interpretations of the eternal duel between Lamborghini and Ferrari. The most recent takes place in Dubai in a scene in "**Italians**" by Giovanni Veronesi, in which there is a mad race between a **Lamborghini Murciélago LP 640** and a 490 hp Ferrari 430 driven by Sergio Castellitto. And if we look back almost twenty years, a Countach is the protagonist of a chase scene with a Ferrari F40 in the action movie "**Joshua Tree**" by Vic Armstrong with Dolph Lundgren. It is a long scene and the most attentive and enthusiastic viewers can tell apart the sound made by



the two cars' engines. A white Lamborghini Countach also appears in an episode of the 1980s television series Miami Vice, in an exciting chase with a Ferrari Daytona.

Lamborghinis have always appealed to the film world. Production companies and directors continue to ask for supercars manufactured by the “House of the Bull” to appear in their films. It is by now an undisputed fact that the car brought to life by the genius of Ferruccio Lamborghini, despite being 50 years old, remains an unparalleled icon. And while we're on the subject of films, we don't need a crystal ball to be able to say with confidence that Lamborghini, like Marilyn Monroe, is a legend on which the sun will never set.

Curiosity: Lamborghini is the perfect video game car

If in the film world the Lamborghini is a star, in the world of video games the car designed by Ferruccio Lamborghini 50 years ago is the “perfect” car. **Gran Turismo 5**, a PlayStation classic that tries to provide the most realistic experience possible in terms of both control and feel, features a car designed almost 50 years ago, the **Miura**. And a Miura is also used in **Midnight Club: Los Angeles**, a test drive game offering complete freedom of movement and the possibility of meeting and challenging other opponents on the street. In **Turbo Charge**, a **Countach** is the means of transport used by British secret agents to chase and capture the terrorists. In 2002 the **Countach** appeared in GTA Vice City. In the new version released in 2006, the Countach - called Infernus for intellectual property reasons - is still one of the cars that can be driven in the video game. The name used wasn't chosen at random. It refers to the car's successor, the Diablo, and was chosen specifically to clarify that the car in the game is a Lamborghini. And the Infernus returned once again in 2009 in the game **GTA IV**. The Jalpa, Murciélago and Gallardo have also all been used in recent years for PlayStation and Xbox games. But to discover



the true power and fantastic performance of a Lamborghini, you need to play **Forza Horizon**, the new chapter in the Turn 10 and Playground Games series exclusive to Xbox 360. In this game there is a race between a **Lamborghini Aventador** and, unbelievably, an aeroplane!