## Passarelli Restorations Excellence in Crattmanship

## W194 Project





The Mercedes Benz W194 was the original 300SL and introduced the "Gullwing" design to the world. It was, arguably, the greatest single leap forward in automotive engineering and design in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This humble racer, literally cobbled together from mostly standard sedan components by an under-funded team led by a visionary engineer named Rudolph Uhlenhaut, created a car that dominated racing. It set a standard that was immediately copied, and has become an icon in the automotive world. With a passion that was ignited nearly three decades ago, Mark Passarelli has spent his professional life becoming one of the most sought after craftsmen in the very small world of vintage 300SL restoration. With his discovery in 2007 of an apparently original motor modified by the 1952 Mercedes Benz racing team and brought to the U.S. for the Panamericana Carrera race, he realized his dream of reconstructing the missing original 300SL – the legendary Number One car of the 11 W194 racers. Mark is shown below in a magazine article with his "resurrection" of the legendary chassis.





In 2011 the Passarelli Restorations shop in Hawaii was filled with the sound of a vintage racing motor roaring to life after nearly 60 silent years. In 2012, Mark Passarelli will have the only drivable chassis of a reconstructed "half door" version of the W194 racer. This is an exact re-creation of the Number One car. More than 80 percent of this car is the same vintage components used to build the original in 1952.

Beginning in the spring of 2013, the body will be built by hand, with the same methods of hand craftsmanship used in 1952 to create the iconic 300SL Gullwing.



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